# 3月のライオン

羽海野チカ

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

10

JETS COMICS

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白泉社
4520

9784592145202

ISBN978-4-592-14520-2

C9979 ¥486E

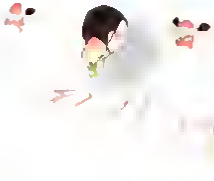
1929979004866

雑誌 44331-26
定価 本体486円+税

白泉社

ひなたが同じ高校の一年生として入学。
零は高校三年生となり、
学校も将棋の戦いも充実した生活を送っていたが——
その穏やかな日々に波乱が起こる。
川本家に現れた歓迎されぬ来訪者とは…？
少年の成長を実感する前進の第10巻。
様々な人間が、何かを取り戻していく
優しい物語です。

（平成26年11月刊）



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## m e s s a g e

Recent Photo of the Author's cat

# 羽海野チカ

YAA! It's me, Bun-chan!
I've really been into curling up recently!
When I'm in this shape, I slip around on ice!
When Mama sees me, she says 'Bun-chan has turned into a strange plant!'
and takes lots of pictures, but I leave her be.
Mama has a bit of a distant attitude towards sports.
And I think it is important for 'people to realize things on their own'!

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Chica Umino

羽海野チカ

将棋監修●先崎学九段

10

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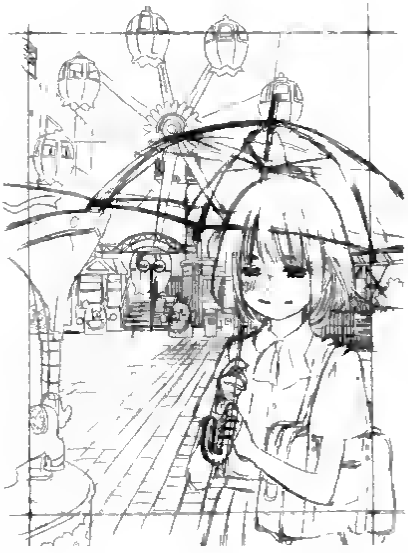
Chapter 95

# New Days



# 3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chika Umino

— The Meijin Championship ended,
the rainy season came to a close,
and now summer is almost here.
My 3rd year of high school, the end of June.
I WANTED TO HAVE A MEMORY OF 'NOT RUNNING AWAY'...
I THINK.
Once I graduate high school,
I decided I would focus purely on shogi rather than go to college,
so I only have 9 months left in my life as a student.

— This is the third year I've come back to this thing called 'school' for that reason.
I'm still alone as ever,
but the reason I can sit here absentmindedly
feeling completely different from before
is because I think
I've made a little progress...
—One new change
I could talk about that happened over those days
with everything saying pretty much the same...

SFX NIPAAAAHHH (SMILE) FURI FURI (WAVING)
にぱぁーっっっ
ふりふり
is the fact that
I'm able to see Hina in the school now.
SFX PYOO
Rei-chan!
ぴょー
Science Lab
3 months have already passed since she entered
Komahashi High School.
— After Hina overcame those angry waves of the entrance exams,

SFX NIKOOO (GRIN)
We made a poster for the Shogi Club!
Look!
All welcome! SHOGI CLUB
It's fun!
The first 4 to arrive
GET A FREE TISSUE CASE GIFT!
Isn't it cute ?!
OOOHHH! THAT LOOKS GOOD!!
—— HUH? ...BUT THESE PIECES.....
ARE THESE HAND-KNIT?
They're presents for the first 4 people to give the club a try.
Aren't they cute?
We both knitted them, actually.
Look!
They actually become tissue cases~~~!
They're both useful and pretty, don't you think?
N-
NEAT...
SFX PAPAAAN
TH-THEY LOOK GREAT
UM, BUT I'M KINDA AFRAID THAT THEY MIGHT BE SO CUTE SOMEBODY MIGHT STEAL THEM
It's okay!! Even if they rip the symbols off, they're drawn underneath!
UH, SO THAT'S OKAY BECAUSE OF THE ILLUSTRATION UNDERNEATH?
SFX BERIH

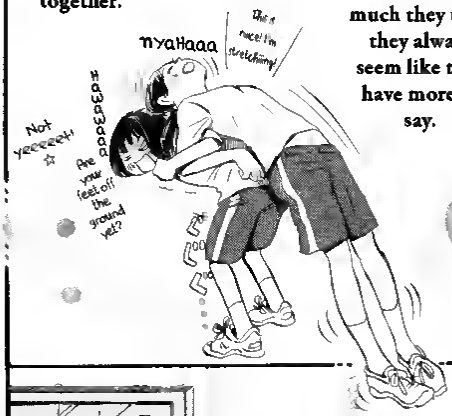
SFX FUHAAH
Aaand stamped.
AH, OK.
THANK YOU VERY MAUCH!!
Okay, all done delivering the goods
from the hand-made club.
I'm gonna need a seal on here.
YOSUYOSUYOSU
Before I knew it
Yeah.
How 'bout we go buy some beads from Asakusa-bashi?
Oookay! ☆ Mission complete!!
Great idea!
Hina-chan had made a great friend!
SUTAAAAAH
TOTATAAAHHH
Her name is Tsugumi-chan.
Apparently she's the daughter of a small handicraft salesman in Nippori.
Ahahah! A caaaat!
Looks nice!
But you'll need to knit a back too
I'm gonna make it a cushion cover!
I'm done!!

— Suddenly I realized

that they're spending break times, lunch time, club activities,

and walks home together.

They seem pretty much on the same wavelength. No matter how much they talk, they always seem like they have more to say.




Fair-skinned, placid, girl with pretty features.

And I guess one thing they have in common is they both have families downtown that run shops.

Even though we're in the same school now...

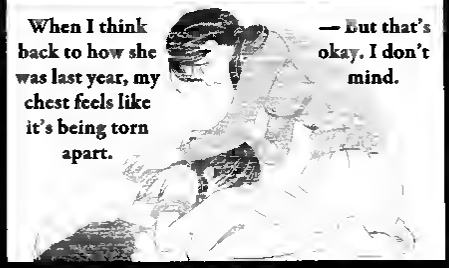
it actually feels like we see each other less than we used to.

Thanks to that, she doesn't have to rely on me at all.

They also both joined the 'Hand-Made Club' and seem to be having lots of fun.

When I think back to how she was last year, my chest feels like it's being torn apart.

— But that's okay. I don't mind.



I'm...
As long as she's able to do that...
HEY, KIRIYAMA,
WE'RE GONNA GET STARTED SOON.
IT'S TIME.
...
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
As long as Hina-chan is able to spend every day with a smile on her face...
EH, MR. VICE PRINCIPAL?
IN THIS COMPANY CREW BATTLE,
I WILL LEAD THE PACK!!
AND I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF HANDING THAT OVER TO A YOUNGSTER LIKE YOU!!
Hohoh. Well, well, well,
Branding me as a youngster—? I haven't heard that one before.
—In that case, I hope you show me.

SFX
PASHIH
PASHIH
PACHIH
PASHIH
パシッ
パシッ
パチッ
パシッ
Sensei!! Please teach me what to do next when i'm in brinkmate !!
The only thing you can do is checkmate the opponent, right?!
KIRIYAMA-SENSEI!! WHEN THERE'S AN OU-HEADED VANGUARD FU, SHOULD I PULL MY HISHA TO THE 1ST RANK ?!
In accelerated Ishida-style, in order to avoid getting smothered,
is rising kin or static hisha anaguma the better choice?!
Last Minute Cramming
AWAWA
MASTER, THE COMPANY CREW BATTLE IS THIS SUNDAY!!
I cannot let that Tsukikou next to me keep smirking at me!!
I HAVE TO MAKE IT UP TO THE A-CLASS LEAGUE THIS YEAR!!
SENSEI !!
U-UM, FIRST, CALM DOWN, EVERY-ONE
Sensei !!

Sensei!!
Sensei!
SENSEI!!
something like
'Maybe I'll join the shogi club'...
If I'm really being honest, I thought Hina chan would say
— Er, actually, excuse me...
as it is a total *outrage, isn't it?!
*(A place where people are taught by a pro shogi player for free)
I mean...!! This isn't so much a 'Shogi Club'
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN JUST COMPLETELY LEAVE HINA-CHAN ALONE NOW!!
But I'm sure this is all right — Er, well,
just 'cause they wanted things haud made by cute girls.
by bastards pretending to want to try the club out
the tissue cases were snapped up in an instant
as for those 'Shogi Club invitation posters' the Hand-Craft Club made,
— By the way,

Chapter 95 END

## WHAT IS A CREW BATTLE IN SHOGI?!

Shogi is an individual sport, but among amateurs there also exists a crew battles where players team up. I would have to say that the largest of these is the Inter-Company Crew Championships held twice a year. Commonly known as Company Crew Battle. These are tournaments in people from the same companies or organizations form five-man teams and compete against each other. It's a traditional tournament and this year (It's currently November of 2014) it has been held 106 times. A-class has always been the best, but now they have a rank called the S-class. A mere 8 teams are entered into this exclusive class and it is made up mostly of well known amateur heavy-hitters.

Besides that there are classed A, B... down to E. They each have 64 team and 128 team tournaments, so that's quite a staggering number of people in total. They take place in massive locations like the Japan Martial Arts Stadium, the Ayase Martial Arts Stadium, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. The winner of each class receives a beautiful shield. By the way, and I can hardly believe this, the publishers of this manga, Hakusensha, have been champions multiple times. According to Umino-san's editor, T-Shi 'I'm the reason they won.' Though that might be a fabrication. They're apparently very proud of the shields they won. It's set at the entrance of the editorial department as if to say 'What do you think of that?'

As for other tournaments, there are the Inter-Workforce Championships, also known as the Workforce Crew Battle. Unlike the Company Crew Battle, there is no restriction on being from the same organization. No matter what sort of mish-mash of companies it is, you're allowed to form a team as long as you have seven people. Because of that rule, there may be strong players that join teams like mercenaries. It's a very unique crew battle overflowing with personality.

Of course, pro players are not in these tournaments (Though they're often asked to join wearing a mask). One would think that if they did participate, they would need to be paid some amount of contractual money... but if they lost somehow, then they would be embarrassed and such.

Crew battles for those in college age and below are in full bloom. Tournaments are big enough that there can be an individuals section and a crews section. One thing I think is pretty cute is the crew battles of 3-man elementary school teams held separately. Also there is the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Cup, commonly known as the Culture-Science Cup. There are preliminaries split into local governments all over the country and the winners of that entet the main tournaments to determine the best elementary schools of the East and the West. I'm sure those that participate are praised by the principals at school assemblies and the trophies decorate the principal's office.

Something unique to crew battles is even if you're doing badly, you don't want to resign quickly because it lowers the morale of the other players. Often these matches come down to the last game and all members of both teams watch with bated breath as the final outcome is determined.

By the way, I've never participated in a crew battle. I've been playing shogi for nearly 40 years and I've never done it even once. As I write this I've realized something quite astounding. Not only in shogi, I've never done a crew battle in any event at all... That's odd. Extremely odd. Because of that I have a secret adoration of team battles. I'd really think it would be nice to have an experience where I lose, but the team wins.

Chapter 96

## Lunch Break

# 3月のライオン

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Congrat-
ulations!!
If you
alone throw
away your
life,
then all of
the other
people in this
world shall be
saved.
HUH?
Rejoice,
chosen one!
HUH?
Come
tomorrow
you shall
be a hero
for all
time.
HUUUH?
SFX: ZUN... ZUZUN...

What... is that?
Is that black-hole-like giant slug thing coming this way?!
— I see... So if I'm sacrificed,
then it'll disappear?

SFX: HYOOOOOO
Put your affairs in order by then.
The ceremony will take place in tomorrow morning.
— And if I don't jump in there, they'll just force me to, won't they?
— Okay, well I'm not sure I get it but I'm supposed to jump in there, right?
What should I do?
That's all the time I have?
By tomorrow— morning?
Put my affairs in order...?
It'll just be confiscated if I die anyhow, right?
— Then why not...
It's really not that much, but this is the money I've worked hard to earn since I was a kid.
He-yup

SFX BYOOOOOO
SFX BAHHH
Ah...
ビョオオオォォ
Dammit, the wind...
ばっっっ
No! Not that way!
— Don't go over there,
I wanted that money
to go for to troubled elders and kids
and people that are taking care of people weaker than themselves
and most of all to the people that are important to me!
Goddammit, what am I doing?!

—I START THINKING THAT INTENSELY
ALSO I HAVE THAT DREAM A LOT...
UHUH
I WISH I HADN'T ASKED.
—THAT'S HONESTLY MY IMMEDIATE THOUGHTS ON THAT
ALL I WAS ASKING YOU WAS 'DO PEOPLE WITH GOOD MEMORIES REMEMBER THEIR DREAMS AND THAT SORT OF THING?'
THAT'S ALL.
Coooo! story bro
SFX: ZURU ZURU...
WHY AM I ALWAYS HAVING DREAMS LIKE THIS...?
THEY SAY THAT DREAMS ARE THE MANIFESTATION OF THE UNCONSCIOUS, RIGHT?
I WONDER IF I CAN FIGURE ANYTHING OUT IF I DO SOME RESEARCH
I was thinking about reading some books on it.
...I don't have a great understanding of the subject, but I think the guy's name was Freud?
Yeah I don't understand Freud all that much
WHEN IT COMES TO DR. FREUD, I'M ALWAYS AFRAID THAT EVERYTHING'S A 'SEXUAL METAPHOR'.
OR WELL...
—NO PLEASE
DON'T RESEARCH IT, PLEASE!!
LIKE 'SACRIFICE' AND 'THROWING MONEY AROUND'
BUT I MEAN, MY DREAM HAD ALL THAT STUFF IN IT
You'll only fall into the central dogma of youth!!
!Seriously!! Don't!!
You've got rank-deciding matches starting!
There are some things it's better not to probe into. That's what me your senses, thinks

ANYHOW,
YOU'RE STILL ALONE, EVEN AFTER 3 YEARS AREN'T YOU?
WHAT? NO, I'M NOT ALONE
I'VE GOT YOU HERE, DON'T I, SENSEI?
HEY, QUIT LAUGHING
DON'T COUNT YOUR SENSEI IN THAT
HA HA HA
THE FRIENDS YOU'D FINALLY MADE GRADUATED
I'M GLAD WE AT LEAST GOT SOME NEW MEMBERS FOR THE SHOGI CLUB THOUGH
MILK
UH...
HOLD ON A SEC
THERE'S SOME SORTING OUT ABOUT THAT I'D LIKE TO DO...
That okay?
UMMM

Shogi Club. Day of the Spring Try-Outs.
SFX SU
WELL, WELL, THAT SOUNDS RELIABLE.
HO HOH.
Then
If you want, I can teach you. I'll join with you.
HA HA HA
Huh..?
But, uh..
Ah!
Er, no, um, I'm still a beginner, so... I wasn't sure.
Kawamoto-san are you joining the club, too?
Do you play shogi?
Same class
Hasn't learned yet
Is she in 1st year?
Ah... Hey that girl's kinda cute
What a cute girl
Came to ask a question
SFX DONN
IS YOUR FAULT, RIGHT?
I'D SAY IT'S PREEEETTY DARN HARD TO DENY THAT THE FACT THAT WE'VE GOT NO NEW MEMBERS
BEFORE THAT, IF YOU WANT TO PLAY, HOW ABOUT I DO A QUICK CHECK OF YOUR SKILL LEVEL?
AH... BUT
— THEN HOW 'BOUT A GAME ?!!
I think the bar might be a bit too high for me
Hey Kawamoto-san want to join the hand-made club?
What's ominous by
HAHH
Kiryuu... how could you be so petty...?
LOOKS LIKE HE'S STILL GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO ON HIS FUNDAMENTALS.
TOO BAD !!
Okay!! Next!!
Mmmhm
I'm gonna train and try again!!
Shit
Broken and broken
SFX YORO YORO (WOBBLING) FURA FURA (SHAKY)

— BUT YOU HAVE A POINT
ALTHOUGH YOU'RE EATING ALONE, SAME AS USUAL
YOU DON'T SEEM UNCOMFORTABLE THE WAY YOU USUALLY DO
AT THE VERY LEAST
YOU'RE NOT READING MAGAZINES ABOUT CHANGING JOBS ANYMORE, IT LOOKS LIKE
MHM...
You were crying back then, weren't you...?
You definitely look like you were holding back tears.
Please stop
And could you forget that?
WELL... I BET IT FEELS GOOD
AND THIS IS A GOOD VIEW, HUH?
HM?
huh?
ISN'T THAT HINA-CHAN?

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT
THEY'VE BEEN EATING THERE A LOT LATELY.
-I KIND FEEL... LIKE IT'S ENOUGH
MY STOMACH'S FULL..
—HEY, KIRIYAMA, UH, DO YOU EAT LUNCH HERE EVERY DAY LOOKING AT HINA-CHAN?
ALONE? WITHOUT EVER TALKING TO HER?
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE WEIRD?!
SFX BISHIIH
Weren't you ever taught not to point at people with your chopsticks?!
It'd be weird for me to be mixing with 1st year girls.
Huh? No, I don't need to do that
CAN'T YOU JUST CALL OUT TO HER AND EAT TOGETHER?!
IT'S FINE, YOU LOOK WEIRD ENOUGH ALREADY!!
Don't worry about it!!
I AM WORRIED ABOUT IT! THE BIGGEST THING TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THERE IS THE AGES!!
MAN... YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE TO GRADUATE FROM BEING THE SOLITARY GOURMET!!
I DON'T MIND, I ACTUALLY THINK IT'S COOL!!
Gorou-san is cool as hell!
T/N SOLITARY GOURMET IS A REFERENCE TO THE ONGOING MANGA "KODOKU NO GOURMET" STARRING A CHARACTER NAMED GOROU INOGASHIRA

WHEN I TOLD AKARI-SAN ABOUT HOW HINA-CHAN IS DOING
.....
JUST GETTING TO SEE THAT IS...
HINA-CHAN IS LAUGHING AND EATING LUNCH WITH HER FRIEND AT SCHOOL
SHE CRIED.
AND SAID HOW HAPPY IT MADE HER.
I'M HAPPY, TOO.
KIRIYAMA
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO PUT IT...
JUST GETTING TO SEE HER SMILE IS...

IF YOU PLACE YOURSELF IN THAT POSITION NOW AND SOMEBODY ELSE NABS HER, IT'S STATISTICALLY IT'S THE-END FOR YOU! ☆
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT? IT'S LIKE YOU'RE HER GUARDIAN OR SOMETHING
IS THAT REALLY ENOUGH?! I'M WORRIED, I REALLY AM
——AAAH, BUT, BUT, BUUUUT... KIRIYAMA!!
Aaaa...
I know that it feels like you're close from that guardian position, but you're actually really far away..... —I'm tellin' ya...
MMM
I SEE...
I GET IT, KIRIYAMA
HAWAAAH
oooof-
HM?
YOU'VE GOT A CRUSH ON HINA-CHAN, DON'T YOU?!
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT, KIRIYAMA?! WITH JUST THAT?!!
もだ
もだもだ
SFX MODA MODA MODA
KIRIYAMA?
IS THE ONE THAT CAME TO THE TRYOUT DAY FOR THE CLUB THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?
OH, THAT GUY
...HM?
WHAT IS IT, KIRI-YAMA?
SFX BAHH

SFX: DASHHH DADADAAH
Um, uh-oh, I forgot I have something I really need to talk to Hina-chan about!!
PARDON ME I'VE GOTTA BE GOING!!
HEYYYY!! THAT'S THE WORST EXCUSE I'VE EVER HEARD!
And there it is!
AAAH! HE'S ALL THE WAY OVER THERE ALREADY ?!
Is he the fastest kid in the world or something ?!
THAT'S REAAAALLY NOT MATURE, KIRIYAMAHHH!
HOW CAN YOU BE THAT PETTY ?!!
AH,
WELL,
I GUESS IT'S OKAY!!
HE'S BETTER OFF THAT WAY ANYHOW
Compared to seeing him helpless like he's about to fall to pieces...
—seeing him baring his teeth like and running like that is...

OH, THE 1ST YEAR ISN'T BACKING OFF?
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, KIRIYAMA ?
AH! THE FIRST YEAR SAT DOWN!
WHAT ABOUT KIRIYAMA ...?
OOH! He sat down, too!
ガッ
ドス

SFX: DOSSU ZAHH

HAHAH!
AND NOW THEY'RE EATING!! THEY'RE ALL EATING LUNCH TOGETHER!!
YOU REALLY DID IT, KIRIYAMA!
YOUR DREAM CAME TRUE! ☆
PFF...
A ha ha ha!

Chapter 96 END

# REGARDING SCHOOL SHOGI

When you think of students, you think of campus life, the era of praising youth. Going to the beach, to the mountains, mixers, and flirting . . I guess I'm a bit old fashioned. But I think it's a time where you're actively fulfilling schoolwork and enjoying yourself.

Of course, there are lots of college students who love shogi and to them, playing shogi equals enjoying themselves. Most colleges have a shogi club and they have tournaments where the club members can come to to play one another. In my student days, I played shogi all the time and now I kind of regret it and wish I had spent more of my youth our enjoying myself. And something that's surprising to me is that for a lot of them (expectedly, mostly boys) shogi is their youth.

College tournaments are frequent. As I touched on in an earlier column, these are divided largely into individual games and crew games. And those fighting for supremacy in the individual games could be called the top of the amateur level already.

There are also national level crew battle tournaments, but there are also many regions as well. There are some places where those are popular and some where they aren't. But the place it's most popular is without a doubt the urban areas. There are lots of tournaments in Tokyo and Osaka.

In the Kansai region, there are strong schools like Tokyo University and Waseda University. And in Osaka the strongest school is unquestionably Ritsumeikan University which is way ahead of the pack constantly ranked 2nd or above.

By the way, there are lots of active pro players, male and female, as well as members of the Shoureikai that are also active college students, but they cannot appear in their college's major tournaments. However, they are allowed to participate in evetyday practice matches. And depending on the person, they mingle a lot.

I wrote before that there are a lot of men, but recently the number of women has increased. And when more women are there, more men are there. It's a mathematical law. Apparently more women are playing the game as a result of this manga as well. There are surprisingly a lot of women that play shogi intensely in high school that quit when they get to college. And the for that reason is

Kiriyama, no!

On the Spring tryout day when girls came out, they get berated with harsh language. You really shouldn't do this. And on top of that, he ended up with zero new club members— Girls . No, beginners need to be treated with kindness. That's the duty of the strong players. If I were Kiriyama's senpai, I'd be giving him a stern lecture.

To all the men out there! When women are just starting out, let's lose to them!

10 or 20 times. Your opponent will know you're going easy on them and learn that the better you are, the kinder you can be to weaker players.

In any case, there is a unique energy, a unique heat in college shogi clubs. For most of them, once they become working adults they get chased away by work and tend to not be able to play shogi much anymore. So I think their feeling is they want to get as much of it in while they can. Shogi is youth! From the perspective of a pro shogi player, I really am jealous.

Chapter 97

## Other Family

While I was drying the laundry, the phone rang.
When I picked up the receiver, I heard a feeble voice say 'hello'
'How are you doing right now?'
When the voice said that
— I thought "Oh, this is one of those 'Hey, it's me' scams." but then
I heard the voice say 'It's been quite some time, hasn't it? It's Rei.'

— The owner of the voice was
HELLO.
the boy that had been part of my household until a few years earlier.
GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, TAROU.
EVERYTHING GOING OKAY WITH YOU?
SFX WAF WAF
SFX HIN HIN
TAROU, YOU'VE BECOME SUCH AN OLD MAN.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SLEEPING RIGHT AROUND HERE ALL THE TIME AS OF LATE, AREN'T YOU?
IS THAT RIGHT, TAROU?
IS AYUMU-KUN DOING WELL?
AND KYOUKO-SAN...?
AYUMU IS IN PREP SCHOOL RIGHT NOW
AND KYOUKO IS DOING TEMP WORK, I GUESS ONE MIGHT SAY SHE'S MOVING AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE.

— Just like it did back then
If Kyouko or Ayumu had been here, then the living room would probably have froze.
I was relieved that the boy had come when I was alone.
— And while I gave him those answers,
BOX: MIKAZUKI TEMPLE
— Yes.
IF YOU WANT....
OH, THESE SWEETS ARE FROM THOSE CANDY SALESPEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN HELPING YOU SO MUCH RECENTLY.
speaks this boy's name anymore.
IN SUCH A LONG TIME.
I'M SORRY I NEVER CALLED YOU OR ANYTHING
No one in this house

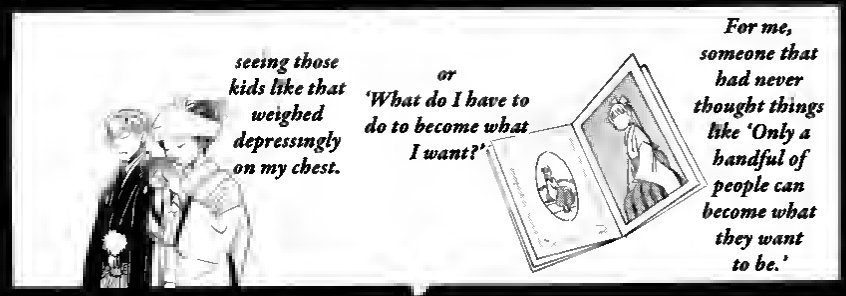
'I was worried. I hadn't seen you in so long, after all.'
— I thought of saying that, but I held my tongue.
This boy knew about all that,
that's why he didn't come here.
And
we faced each other as I awkwardly sat there
unable to look him in the eye
Gentle ...
— Yes, gentle ...
The atmosphere around this boy had become so very gentle.
He'd become an adult.

—It's a simple explanation. It would be clear as day to any onlooker.
I was at a relatively early stage that I realized my kids were not match for him.
...the amount of practice he did was on another level.
My son is still
the same kid he always was.
He's the same age as Ayumu?
— I can hardly believe it.
If the question came to whether they could or not,
they couldn't.
The answer was simple.
— But
they would have to practice more than him or they would never get anywhere.
If they still didn't want to lose to him,

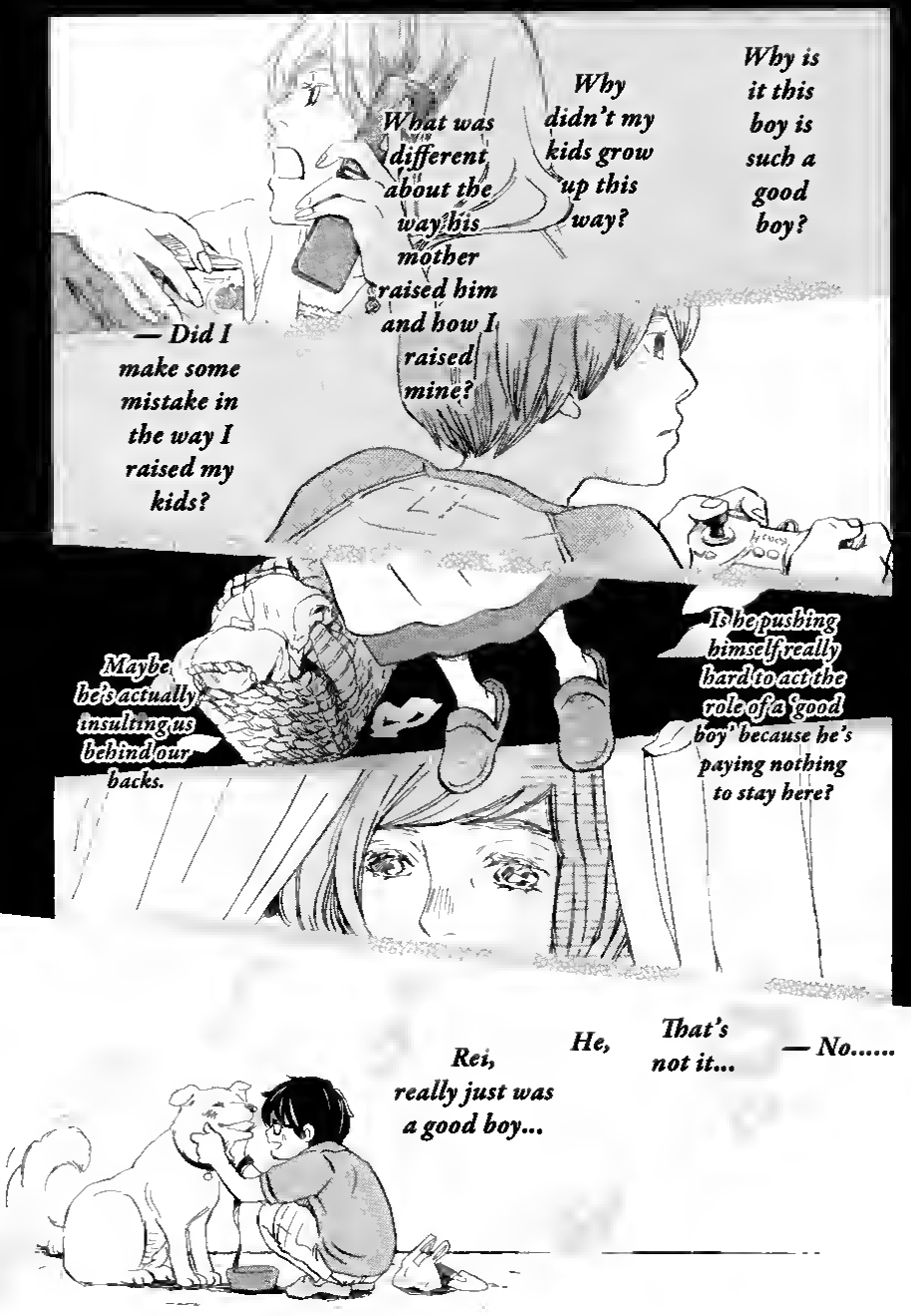
my kids had their minds shaken by their own weakness
were collapsing into little pieces.
In front of him progressing as he silently embodied the idea of sound reasoning,
'People that need others to bring out motivation in them will eventually come to a standstill anyhow.' That's my husband's pet theory.
and my husband just said nothing and watched.
My own children rebelled against me and I was lost

— That was probably the moment that he gave up on Ayumu being a 'shogi player'.
'Ha!'
my husband laughed.
and with those words
And one day, Ayumu came out with 'I mean, being able to work hard is a talent itself!'
Unable to look their own weakness in the eye, they were swallowed by enjoyment that was within arm's reach.

had to pursue it this far.
was that people who had a 'place they wanted to reach'
'c
The thing they realized when they saw that boy


seeing those kids like that weighed depressingly on my chest.
or 'What do I have to do to become what I want?'
For me, someone that had never thought things like 'Only a handful of people can become what they want to be.'

If you could see past the thing called shogi, you could see that the quiet in the house that my husband related to it most
was my in our family, it was that boy's
I tried to understand, but I really just
And one day, I finally realized that my husband is a man doing the same path as that boy when he himself was a boy.
He studied without attorney's work and he helped out with the household, too.
He devoted himself wholeheartedly into shogi.
He really was a good boy.
And that made it all the more painful for our two children...


Why is it this boy is such a good boy?
Why didn't my kids grow up this way?
What was different about the way his mother raised him and how I raised mine?
— Did I make some mistake in the way I raised my kids?
Is he pushing himself really hard to act the role of a 'good boy' because he's paying nothing to stay here?
Maybe he's actually insulting us behind our backs.
— No.....
That's not it...
He,
Rei, really just was a good boy...

— And he felt...
I never gave him a place to belong.
We took advantage of him, pushed him away, and treated him carelessly.
knew that, we took advantage of Rei.
My kids — and me
— But he never even said that out loud—
and quietly left the house.
'As long as I'm here, everyone's just going to feel more and more strained.'

— What else could I say, after all?
— 'See you soon.' I answered in kind.
he simply said 'I'll see you again some other time.'
Without trying to find any closing remarks to say,
— and said 'Well...'
When the five o'clock bell chimed, Rei stood up from his seat

TAROU
SEE YA.

Rei left

and I started work on dinner in the kitchen

just like usual.

Even if no one contacts me,

every day,

I stand here,

make dinner, and wait for everyone.

That night, I had a dream.

A dream where Rei was really my son.

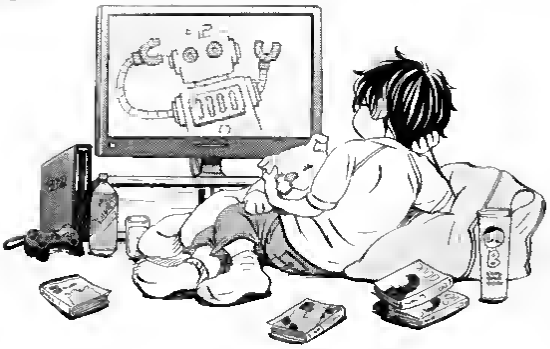
He had become like most children and when I said 'Get to bed soon!' he talked back saying 'quiet down'.

sprawled out in the living room eating sweets, watching TV,

—I felt drained thinking 'What? This is just like Ayumu and Kyouko, isn't it?'

But deep in my heart

I was relieved.



Chapter 98

# Soft Wind

Momo. Age 1 year 7 months. Her Onei-chan made her that bib with a towel handkerchief.

# 3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chika Umino

!
HUU...

I GUESS EVERYONE'S IN KYOTO RIGHT NOW
EVEN IF YOU DON'T ACTUALLY FEEL THAT WAY...
—YES, SOOO
HOW 'BOUT YOU MAKE A BIT MORE OF A REMORSEFUL FACE?
THE FINALS ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A SCHOOL TRIP DAY, SO I GUESS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO THAT, HUH?
CONGRATS ON MAKING IT TO THE FINALS OF GROUP 3 OF THE SHISHI-OU CHAMPIONSHIP!
ON ANOTHER NOTE, I REALLY FEEL LIKE I SHOULD SAY 'CONGRATU-LATIONS'.
WELL,
SORRY
LIKE A 'IT KINDA DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HE FELT BAD AT ALL...' KINDA SMILE?
YOU SAW THAT BITTER SMILE THE HOMEROOM TEACHER SAKKISAKA-SENSEI HAD, RIGHT?
ヒクッ...
Yes...

EVEN ON THE INTERNET EVERYBODY SEEMED SURPRISED LIKE 'I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS SORT OF KIRIYAMA!'
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE DONE THAT IN AN OFFICIAL GAME, ISN'T IT?
AH... ER, WELL,
I'M HUMBLED
THAT WAS SOME GREAT DANG PERSEVERANCE!!
YOU EVEN MANAGED TO FORM THAT STATIC HISHA ANAGUMA YOU BARELY EVER PLAY!
BUT I SAW THE NOTATIONS ON THE INTERNET,
AND THAT WAS A REAL BATTLE! SO YOU WERE UP AGAINST HACHIYA 5-DAN?
HAWAAA
Do your best, Kiriyama aaa!
and you managed to hold out until the time was counting down and made a huge comeback!!
Aikin, gin, and Iuma charged into your camp
And no sooner had you launched that battle formation you weren't used to, you ended up in a huge battle right after the mid-game.
SFX DON DON
I'm... really sorry...
CLEAR AS DAY
YEP
— FEELING COMING FROM THAT PLAY, KIRIYAMA!!
I SENSED A STRONG ! don't want to go on that field trip no matter what."
SFX KAAAA GOHO GOHO GOHO (COUGH COUGH COUGH)

SO IT LOOKS LIKE THE 3 YEARS OF YOUR REDOING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL LIFE IS GOING TO END WITHOUT EVER ONCE GOING ON AN OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP...
YEAH.
THEN WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK OF RELIEF ON YOUR FACE?
I MEAN, WELL, I THINK I'M OKAY WITH IT THIS WAY.
YEAH. THERE REALLY WEREN'T ANY CHANGES AT ALL, THOUGH.
NO, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, RIGHT?

LOTS OF STUFF HAPPENED.
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
—— A WHOLE LOT, DON'T YOU THINK?
...
YEAH.

'Well, I guess that's fine.'

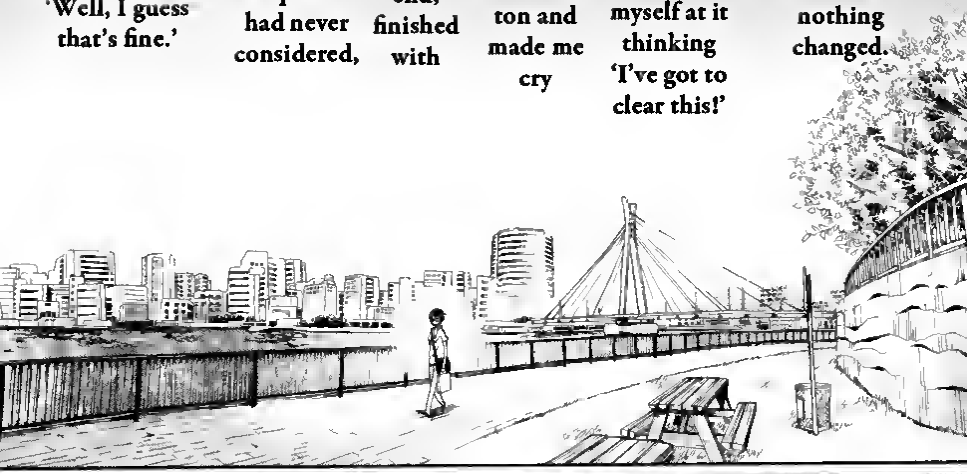
an endpoint I had never considered,

in the end, finished with

that got me hurt a ton and made me cry

In this quest I kept hurling myself at it thinking 'I've got to clear this!'

— In the end, nothing changed.



I'm not feeling pangs of guilt anymore,

although this wasn't different from my 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year,

The thing that made me feel relieved even without going on the field trip was,

finding a place to put your feelings.

it was probably

was not the quest itself,

What you wanted to clear

— Yes, this place is probably
the end point
of my tear-stained and snot-stained grapple with
this thing called school.
What you'd call
the 'common ground'.
It's kind of a, uh, pitiful final scene, but —
the fact that
I feel so oddly cheerful is interesting to me.

UH, NO
SHIMADA-SAN AND KUMAKURA-SAN HAVE A MATCH TODAY
SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT USE IT AS A CHANCE TO STUDY A BIT
OH, I GET YA
OH,
DOING OKAY, KIRIYAMA? WHAT? YOU HAVE A MATCH TODAY?
将棋会館
Sorry, I just...
Ah, I thought so.
THAT WAITING ROOM'S A PACKED HOUSE
Nikaidou and Shigeta and some other guys are there
YOU GUYS ALL SEEM TO LIKE SHIMADA A BIT TOO MUCH, DON'T YA THINK?
YOU SURE ARE ENTHUSIASTIC OR ACTUALLY,
AH!
RIGHT, HERE

HEEY, GUYS! WE'VE GOT SOME SNACKS HEEERE!
MIKAZUKI-YAKI? I WAS JUST GETTING HUNGRY!
HUH? WHAT? ARE YOU SURE?
THE CANDY STORE OWNERS THAT ARE ALWAYS HELPING ME WITH THINGS SAID 'HELP YOURSELF TO THESE TEA CAKES'.
三日月焼
I would love some!!
Ooh!
GET YOUR NAME ON THEM? SOUNDS NICE
もぐもぐ
I'll just leave a flyer for them right here
They told me feel free to use them for celebrations and that sort of thing.
If you order dorayaki, you can even get your name printed on them.
Busi-ness Smile
MMM. THESE ARE GREAT! THE SKIN'S ALL SOFT...
PLEASE, KIRIYAMA-KUN! WE HAVE SO FEW ORDERS FOR JUNE

SFX: SASAH MOGU MOGU (CHEWING)

T/N: DORAYAKI ARE CONFECTIONARIES MADE OF TWO CASTELLA SPONGE CAKE PANCAKES AROUND ADZUKI BEAN PASTE

HUH?
DON'T DRIP ANY ON THOSE RANK DIPLOMAS.
PUT THE BRUSH DOWN.

— Not since that typhoon in Sendai...
OH, HELLO.
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE
将棋会館

SIGNING RANK DIPLOMAS?
I SEE. SO YOU DO THAT HERE, HUH?
HE'S GOT QUITE A FEW OF THEM TO DO
IT'S A PAIN FOR HIM TO MOVE AROUND A LOT SO WHEN SOUYA IS IN TOKYO WE HAVE HIM SIGN THEM ALL HERE.
NICE HANDWRITING, AIN'T IT?
HIS HANDWRITING USED TO BE REALLY NARROW LIKE LITTLE SLUDGE WORMS
YOU REALLY PRACTICED, HUH?
WELL IT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF A MEIJIN'S DUTIES.
AND HE'S GOT THOUSANDS MORE TO WRITE.
WHEN YOU BECOME THE FACE OF THE SHOGI WORLD
YOU END UP WITH A TON OF JOBS OUTSIDE YOUR MAIN ONE.
SOUYA'S IN LOTS OF COMMERCIALS AND STUFF LIKE THAT, TOO...
もぐもぐ
ススス…
moving it out of harm's way
ボロボロ
将棋会館

SFX: SUSUSU... BORO BORO... MOGU MOGU

SPONSORS
.....
SPEAKING OF SPONSORS, SHIMADA
HAHAHAHA
THAT GUY GOT SOME AMAAAAZING GOOD NEWS, TOO.
HUH?! SHIMADA-SAN?!
ANIJA IN A COMMER-CIAL?! WHERE?! WHAT COMPANY IS IT?!
ZUKI
SFX SYNNN
IT WAS A GREAT, GREAT COMPANY
A NATIONAL CLIENT, DANGIT!
AND SHIMADA... THAT BASTARD.. HE TURNED THEM DOWN!!
HUUUH?! WHY?! DID HE SAY WHY?!
ANIJA WOULD MAKE SUCH AN AMAZING FACE FOR THE SHOGI WORLD!
WHAT COMPANY THAT OFFERED IT?!
HAHAHA
Could he be talking about...
I'll try to get him to change his mind!!
SFX ZUIHH
SFX BURU BURU BURU (SHAKING)

It was like....
An artsy and nature-ish kind of thing...!!!
— He should've been saying something like 'This is the perfect opportunity!!' or somethin', right?!
It has plenty to do with him! It's right up his alley!
— Can you believe he says that...?
Harara
I said I was humbled by their offer, but I don't think
I really need things like that yet...
Aa...
I told him what a huge sponsor that was, that idiot!!
WWW
AAA
T/N ART NATURE IS A COMPANY THAT SELLS THINGS LIKE WIGS AND HAIR-GROWTH PRODUCTS
SFX KU
WAAAAHN!!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HUMBLY DECLINE!!
YA GOTTA KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO SHIMA-OA!!
HEY, WOULD YOU TWO GIVE IT ONE MORE SHOT TO TRY AND CHANGE HIS MIND?!
将棋会館

Chapter 98 END

# REGARDING TITLE MATCH SPONSORS

There are 7 title matches in the world of men's shogi and the sponsers for all of them are newspaper companies. Specifically they are

Ryuu-Ou Championship - Yomiuri Shimbun
Meijin Championship - Asahi Shimbun, Mainichi Shimbun (Disregard ordering)
Oui Championship - A collection of prominent local newspapers
Ouza Championship - Nihon Keizai Shimbun
Ki-Ou Championship - A collection of prominent local newspapers
Oushou Championship - Mainichi Shimbun, Sports Nippon
Kisei Championship - Sankei Shimbun

The back of newspapers have columns on shogi and go. They'll print game notations there which they pay the Japan Shogi Association money for and that money goes to the winners depending on how well they do and that's how we make out living.

Still, it's unusual for professional organization to have newspapers as sponsors. For games like golf, they're all businesses.

Having newspapers as sponsors is a bit complicated. After all, the people providing the financial backing and reporting the events are the same people. So if you look at the reporters interviewing the players from that perspective, they're both reporters and sponsors. Consequently the players pay more care to the reporters than the normal world does. Sponsors are absolute. But I believe that a comfortable tension should exist between the reporters and those being reported on, so it's a difficult subject. Though honestly, I'm used to it.

There are a lot of newspaper sponsors, but we have a long history. So I'll be speaking for experience here.

The period of rapid increase of sales of newspapers just before and just after a championship directly coincided with the time when the current systems the shogi world and go world were created. With shogi, we had stopped doing the hereditary system of the expert system we had done until that point and changed to a merit system of Meijin Championship and Go also had many really stimulating games going on at the time. This period, also called the cradle period in the modern shogi world, is where the newspapers have exclusive rights to the match notations which brought in lots of popularity. It went from a small group of intelligentsia reading them to huge numbers of people being able to read them. And that change in the newspaper was ideal for shogi and go.

And so, newspapers started sponsoring us one after another and here we are. It was in this period that the current system which I personally call the 'Go Seigen Regime'.

Go Seigen-san is a super-giant in the world of go and thanks to having exclusive rights over this man's go games, it's said that a certain huge newspaper became a success. Without appearing in any title matches of the time at all, Go-san said "If anyone thinks they can beat me, let's have a 10-game match and see who wins!" (So cool!) And so challengers came after him one after another and he crushed them all, so of course he became tremendously popular.

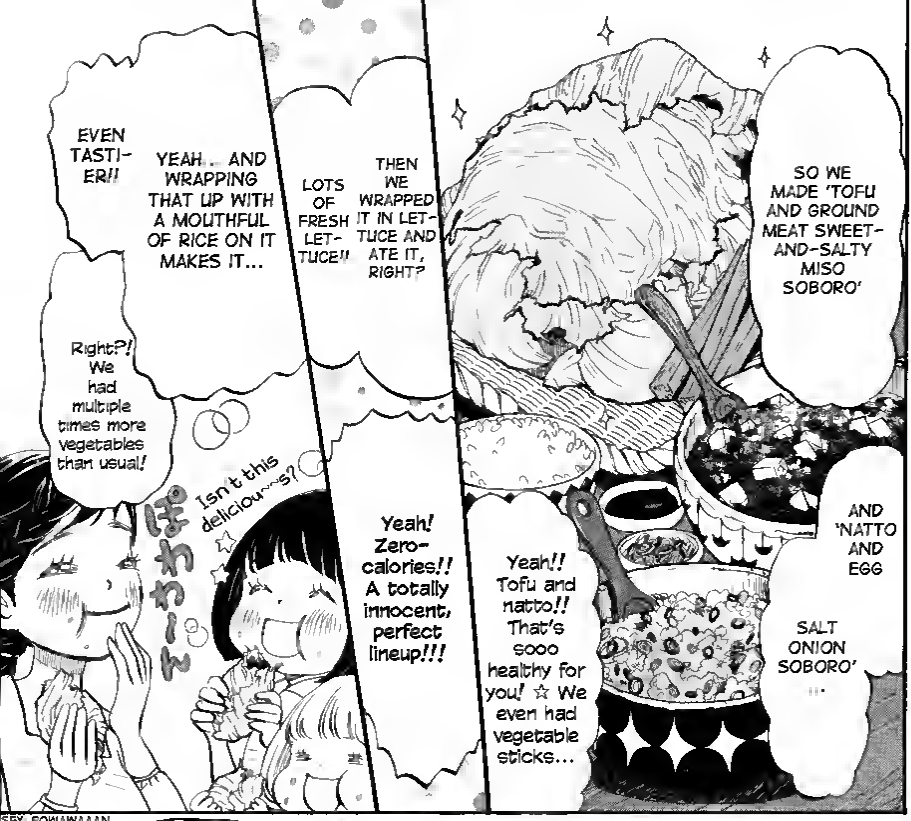
But now with young people starting to leave newspapers, I don't know how long the Go Seigen Regime will go on for. I want to offer my sincere thanks to the thoughtful businesses that support the 'combat of the mind' and 'the exquisite competition that combines knowledge and striving for victory' of shogi and go.

Chapter 99

## A Town Where it Rains

U...
Uuuuh....
IT'S SO STRANGE
YEAH
IT...
SURE IS, HUH?
I-
I wonder what happened...
WELL, I'M PRETTY SURE...
WE WERE SAYING BEFORE 'We've gotten a bit plump lately so how about we go pick lots of vegetables and make a nice menu?☆'
YEAH! AND...
'Let's make a healthy soboro and turn it into lettuce roles! ☆
Wrap anything in lettuce and it becomes healthy! ☆
—— THAT'S HOW IT WENT, DIDN'T IT...?

T/N SOBORO IS MINCED MEAT OR FISH WITH SOY SAUCE


SO WE MADE 'TOFU AND GROUND MEAT SWEET-AND-SALTY MISO SOBORO'
AND 'NATTO AND EGG
SALT ONION SOBORO'
...
Yeah!! Tofu and natto!! That's sooo healthy for you! ☆ We even had vegetable sticks...
Yeah! Zero-calories!! A totally innocent, perfect lineup!!!
THEN WE WRAPPED IT IN LETTUCE AND ATE IT, RIGHT?
LOTS OF FRESH LETTUCE!!
YEAH... AND WRAPPING THAT UP WITH A MOUTHFUL OF RICE ON IT MAKES IT...
EVEN TASTIER!!
Right?! We had multiple times more vegetables than usual!
Isn't this delicious?
ぽわぁん
SFX: FOWAWAAAN

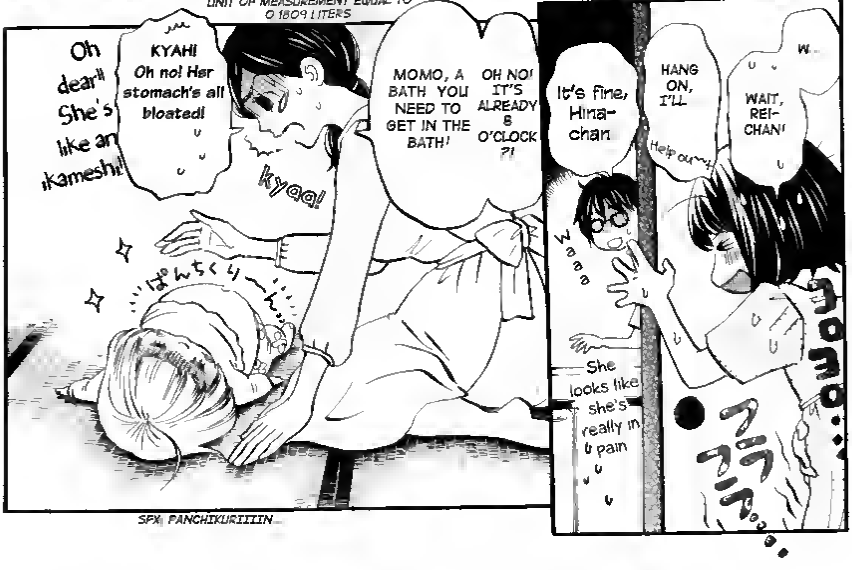
SFX: KACHA KACHA
...Hey, Kuryama what do you make of this?
have this terrible... 'What have we done' feeling...?
...So then why do we...
WELL, FIRST YOU ATE A TON OF VEGETABLES...
—— AND ALSO THE AMOUNT OF RICE YOU STARTED PUTTING IN THE WRAPPED LETTUCE INCREASED MORE AND MORE OVER TIME...
SO UH... THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN IT... YA KNOW?
HUH? NO WAY! WE INCREASED THE AMOUNT OF RICE?
OH NO!! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO, KIRIYAMA-KUN?!!
Umm
うぞぞ

SFX KARAH (EMPTY)
WELL, UMM...
NOOOOO...
I'LL WASH THE DISHES, OKAY?
WHAT? THAT CAN'T BE! I COULD SWEAR I MADE 4 GOU TO...DAY...
THE RICE BOWL IS EMPTY!!
KYAAA NOOOOOOO!
KYAHHH! ONEI-CHAN!
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP US, KIRIYAMA-KUN?!
I'M SORRY
YOU THREE JUST LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE REALLY ENJOYING YOUR MEAL...
SO I JUST...

SFX SOOOOOTTO... (QUIETLY)

T/N A "GOU" IS AN OLD UNIT OF MEASUREMENT EQUAL TO 0.1809 LITERS

SFX YORO YORO FURA FURA (SHAKY)

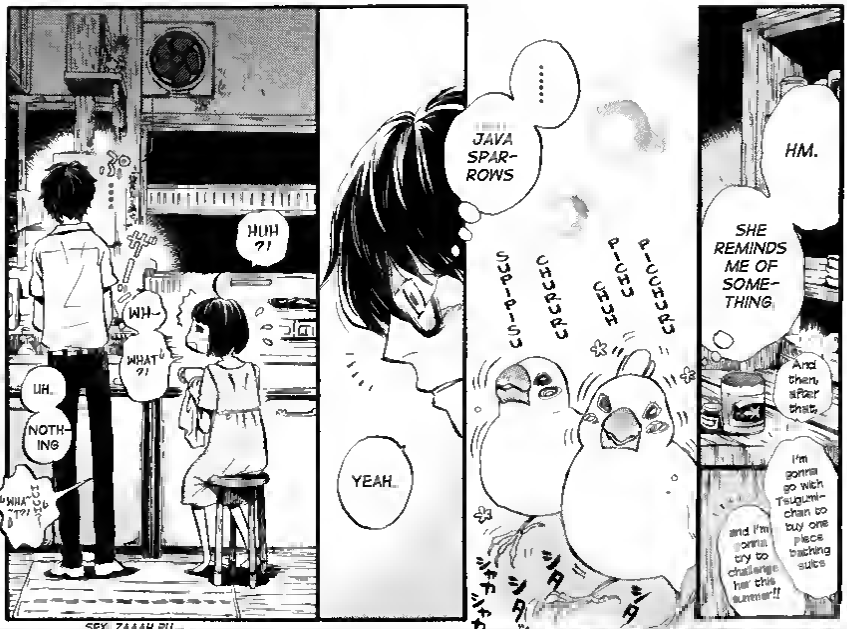



SFX PANCHIKURIIIIN...

I SEE.
I'VE BEEN GOING HOME EARLY ALL THE TIME
OUT OF CONCERN FOR AKARI-SAN AND HINA-CHAN'S BATH TIME, BUT...
IF I TAKE MOMO-CHAN INTO CONSIDERATION, TOO, THEN I MAY HAVE TO LEAVE EVEN EARLIER.
SFX: PATAN
AH, I'LL JUST CLOSE THE DOOR
HMM? WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, I SEE YOU'RE EMBARASSED SINCE REI-CHAN IS HERE, HUH ?
YOU'RE A BIG GIRL, AFTER ALL, AREN'T YOU?
I'M SORRY THIS IS HOW OUR HOUSE IS LAID OUT
NO, IT'S FINE, EXCUSE ME
OH, THAT REMINDS ME
HOW'VE YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES BEEN GOING RECENTLY, HINA?
SFX: KACHA... KACHA...
Hmm,
I'd say it's because Akari-san's rice is just too good
Wh...
Why can I never stop eating rice once I get started...?
SFX: UUUUU
SFX: UUUUU

Ah,
well, next meeting
we're going to pickle hatsuka daikon!
HM? WHAT? IT IS A 'HANDMADE CLUB', RIGHT?
YOU COOK THERE, TOO? IT'S NOT ALL HANDICRAFTS?
That's right!! Like I said, we're gonna make pickles out of hatsuka daikon!!
Hm? Is that what the 'hand made' part is?
They were already budding today! ♡
Hey, Kiriyama-kun, did you know that hatsuka daikons and radishes are the same thing?
REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT
SPX: PAAHHH

THAT'S GOOD. IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING LOTS OF FUN.
SHE'S TALKING A LOT ABOUT HER CLUB
And AND we're gonna put them in the jars
IT MUST BE REALLY ENJOYABLE FOR HER
so we're collecting empty jam bottles now!
I'M REALLY GLAD
And then Tsugumi-chan she said next time we can go to Kappabashi Street together




*The first time I heard the name 'Rokugatsu Town' was*

*an evening in December during a light rain.*

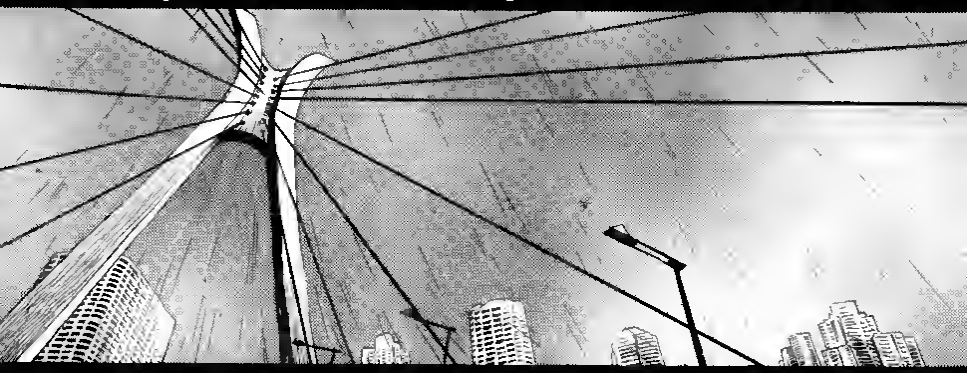
*When I saw it*

*I thought it sounded like the name of a town where it rains all year round.*

*The scenery of warehouses and square buildings quietly soaking in rain*

*seemed to be blurring and soaking through me.*

*I'd thought that once I'd become a pro, I would leave home.*



*I didn't think that there would be good things waiting for me up ahead.*

*— But I felt like in that town, I would be forgiven.*

*If I could just blend into it.*

*Even if I couldn't be happy.*

*But now that I've crossed that bridge,*

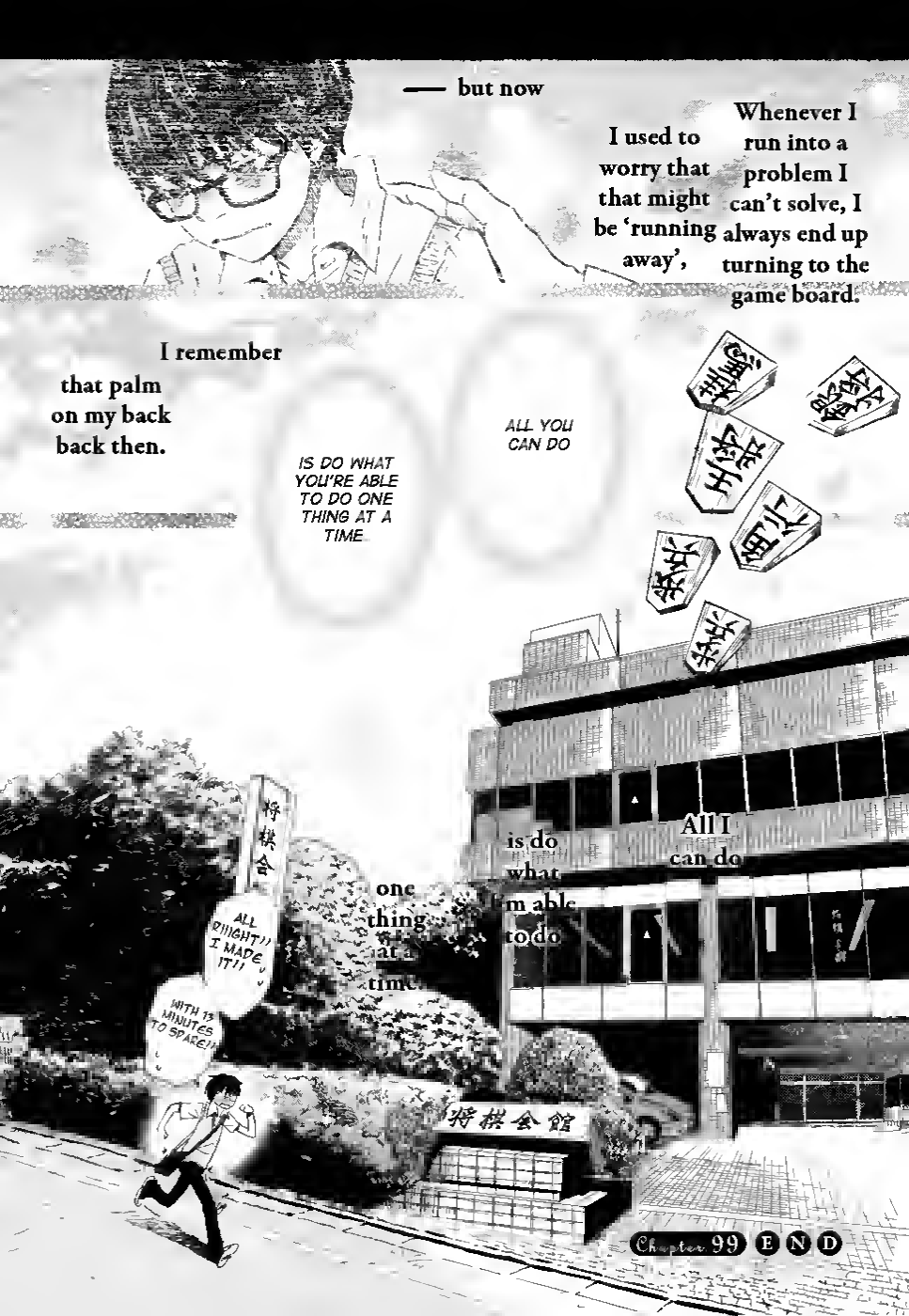
*I have found the light of Sangatsu Town*

*and I am in that light.*

Life can't be calculated.
One way to measure it is to say 'The future is a closed book', 'Anything beyond the present is shrouded in darkness',
but the opposite
is also true plenty of the time.
'Light is 3 minutes away'.

But it's a little scary.
If there comes a day when this light drifts far way,
— then
what will I do then?
HOLD ON, WHEN DID I STOP?!
I'VE GOT A RANK-DECIDING MATCH TODAY!!
YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT ?!
HUH?! OH MAN!!
IT'S PAST 9?!
UH ?
U-
UHHH

HANG ON, IS THIS THAT LEGENDARY, UH, YOU KNOW WHAT?!
HUH?!
AHHH!
SFX MASHHAA
This White is like Bread that Oh no! I'm late! I'm late!! thing.
THANK GOD!!
AAH! TAXI!!!
SFX KIIIIIIIH
IF I CAN JUST GET A TAXI QUICK!!
—— AND I'LL TRANSFER TO OCHANOMIZU FROM THE CHUOU LINE AND I'LL GET TO SENDA-GAYA IN 15 MINUTES
OH WELL!! I'LL TAKE A TAXI TO TOKYO STATION!!
SFX DAH
I CAN PROBABLY GET THERE 10 MINUTES BEFORE
IF I'M LATE I GET A PENALTY TRIPLE THE AMOUNT I'M LATE BY!!!
so I just focused purely on my match today
and did oothiog hut look over game notatioos.
YEAH, JUST BARELY
DO I HAVE ENOUGH...?
wasn't actually
able to fiod an aoswer to my questioo last night,
—I


— but now
I used to worry that that might be 'running away',
Whenever I run into a problem I can't solve, I always end up turning to the game board.
I remember that palm on my back back then.
IS DO WHAT YOU'RE ABLE TO DO ONE THING AT A TIME
ALL YOU CAN DO
All I can do is do what I'm able to do one thing at a time.
将棋会館
ALL RIGHT!! I MADE IT!!
WITH 13 MINUTES TO SPARE!!
Chapter 99 END

# 3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

Chapter 100

Swimming Man ①

Momo Parfait

# 3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

When I was io elementary school my parents divorced so I moved from Tokyo.to my mom's home-towo.

The school I transferred to was a small school near the sea. And when summer came, I had long distance swimming lessons.

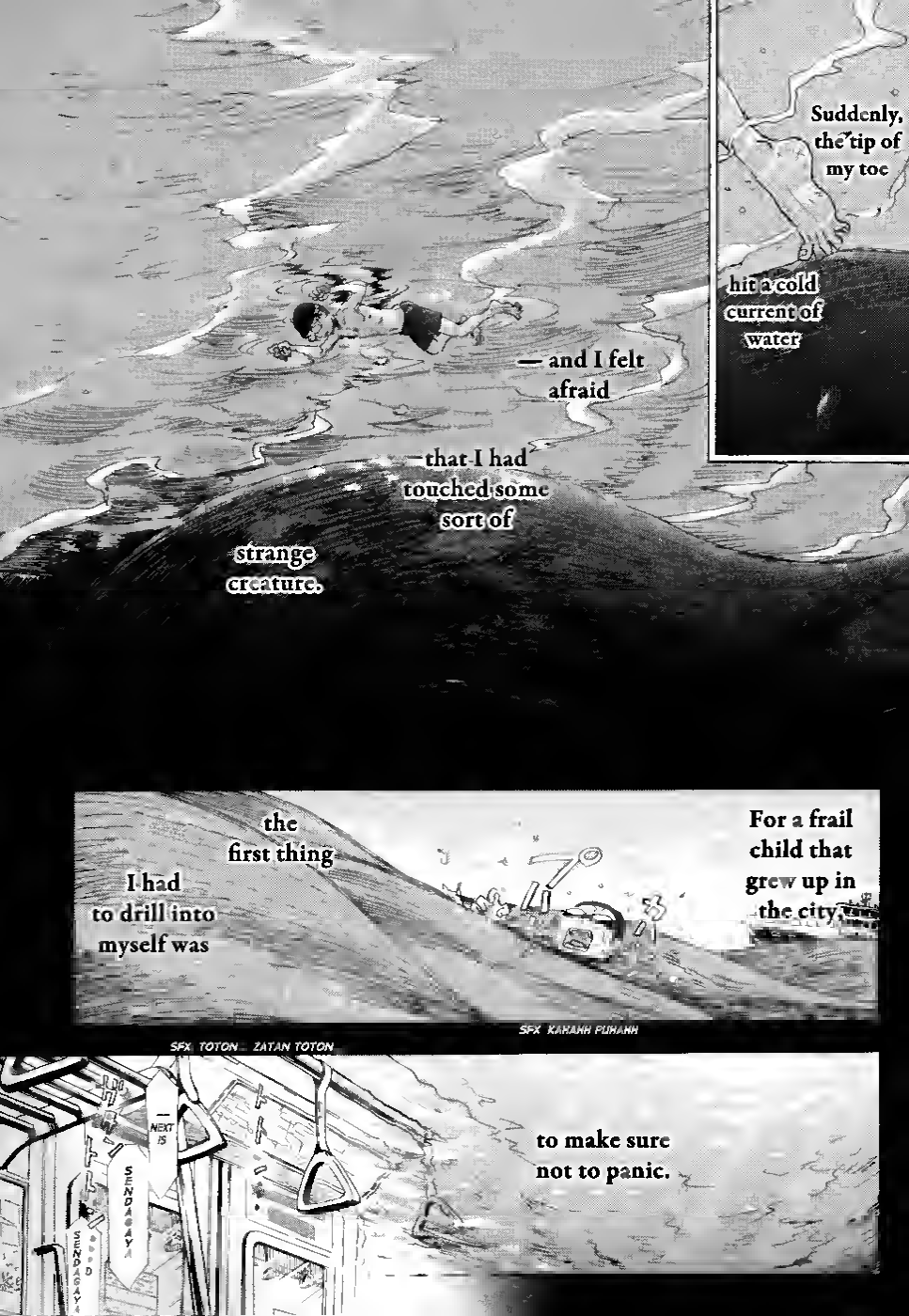
SFX. DOH PAN @YAAAH DOH PAN

I liked swimmiog, hut I was astonished hy how differeot the sea was from a pool.

To start with, the water was shockiogly salty,

all the waves keep comiog aod push you arouod,

and with the timiog I used to try to hreathe, I could oever catch my breath!!


Suddenly, the tip of my toe
hit a cold current of water
— and I felt afraid
that I had touched some sort of
strange creature.
For a frail child that grew up in the city,
the first thing I had to drill into myself was
SFX: KAHAHH FUHAHH
SFX: TOTON... ZATAN TOTON
to make sure not to panic.
— NEXT IS SENDAGAYA
SENDAGAYA

SENDAGAYA STATION
That I wouldn't be hasty and start flailing around.
That even if there's someone passing next to you at an incredible speed...
SFX DADADADADADA
SFX TEKU TEKU TEKU
— That you shouldn't ruin your pace because you got caught up in what they were doing.
HE'S STILL DOING PHYS ED AND THAT SORT OF THING.
I DON'T DOUBT HE'S IN HIGH SCHOOL.
MY OPPONENT TODAY...?
Hm...
...WAIT,
ISN'T THAT GUY THAT JUST SPRINTED PAST ME

T/N: SHIRUKO IS ADZUKI BEAN SOUP WITH PIECES OF MOCHI

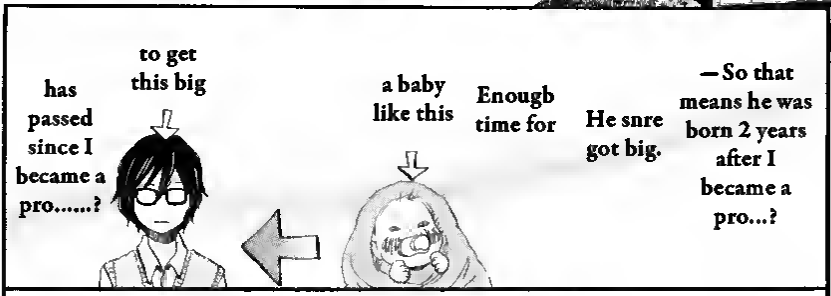
SFX: GUUUSI GUUUSI KUTH

How many of these things did that guy eat?!
Culprit.
AH!
KUMAKURA-SAN HAD A MATCH HERE YESTERDAY!!
I DON'T THINK SO NOT IN TIME FOR HIS BEFORE-NOON BREAK
DO YOU THINK WE'LL MAKE IT IF WE PUT MORE IN NOW? IT'S GOTTA GET WARM THOUGH
HOW IN THE WORLD DID THE SUPPLY RUN THIS LOW?
Has somebody been drinking these like water?
Hurry, hurryyy!
Huge intake
OH, SO KUMA-SAN ATE IT ALL?

SO, HOW'S IT GOIN'?
YOU'VE GOT YOUR FIRST GAME AGAINST KIRIYAMA-KUN TODAY, RIGHT?
YES.
Umm... I guess I'll take one.
No, two would be great.
OOH, IRIE-CHAN,
WANT SOME SWEETS?
WE JUST GOT THESE, THEY'RE YOKAN!!
OH, GOOD MORNING, PRESIDENT
YOU SURE?
AND NOW HE'S UP AGAINST YOU THAT TOOK 20 YEARS TO GET THERE!!
IN JUST 3 YEARS, KIRIYAMA CAME ALL THE WAY UP TO DUN DADAAA! B2.
IT SURE IS STRANGE.
IRIE-SENSEI!! IT'S 5 MINUTES TO, YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET MOVING!
How can you say something like that just before a match?!
Yes in-deedy.
Uh, hey! Pres!
A
B1
B2
C1
C2
19 years old
Kiri Yamal
3 YEARS
2nd year
1st year
16 in April
Years Old
Kiri Yamal
Became a pro at age 15
This year is his 3rd year in B2.
Irie
9 Years
11 years
Irie
20 YEARS
Became a pro at age 23

I'LL HAVE TO KEEP STUDYING.
SHEESH, PRESIDENT...
WHAT'RE YOU GOIN' ON ABOUT?
I WAS JUST TRYIN' TO GET HIM TO RELAX.
YOU CAN'T BE SAYING WEIRD THINGS LIKE THAT TO PLAYERS RIGHT BEFORE THEIR MATCHES!!
IT'S FINE!! IRIE ISN'T THE KIND OF MAN WHO WILL LOSE HIS COMPOSURE FROM A LITTLE JAB LIKE THAT.
I MEAN, THIS IS THE GUY'S 23RD YEAR AS A PRO AND HE'S STILL GOT OVER A 62% WIN RATE
HE'S A STRANGE MAN... HE'S TAKES HIS TIME TOO MUCH, BUT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A STRONG PLAYER!
IN BASEBALL TERMS, THAT'S LIKE A BATTER THAT'S BEEN ON A TEAM FOR 20 YEARS
AND HAS CONTINUOUSLY BATTED IN THE 300'S.

19 years old.....
I MEAN, ARE JABS LIKE THAT
REALLY NECESSARY FOR PLAYERS RIGHT BEFORE A MATCH?
Doesn't that hurt the stamina of a player doing that right before the match?
Does it?!!
HUHH ?!!
DID YOU JUST GET THAT NOW?!

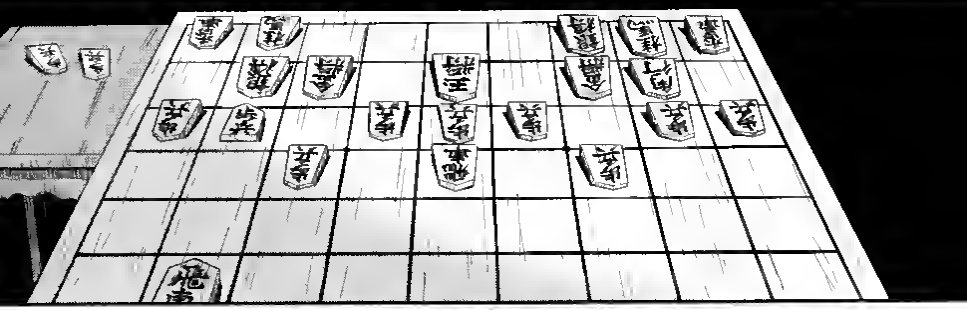

—So that means he was born 2 years after I became a pro...?
He snre got big.
Enougb time for
a baby like this
to get this big
has passed since I became a pro.....?

SFX JIH SHIMIJIMI (STARING)
Well,
I got older, too.
しみじみ……

is sitting there, wearing clothes, right in front of me.
It's like 'time' itself
LET'S HAVE A GOOD GAME
incred-ible.
— That's actually really...
3 years
and 20 years, huh...?
2-7 Fu.
パチ
SFX: PACHI
2-5 FU.
A SIDE FU, HUH ..?
SFX: PACHIN

We're still only at the beginning of the mid-game, aren't we?
2 honrs, here...?
I sure didn't expect him to take nearly 2 hours here...
— He's taking a while...

*What is the world*



*is he looking at right now?*

to decide on that...?
It took him nearly 2 hours
—And he's retreating?
He's pulling the gin he moved up before back?
SFX SUH
— There it goes again.
And I got hit by a wave right when I was trying to take a breath
— and I swallowed a lot of water.
I was over-eager.
I got startled when my hand got tangled in a piece of seaweed.
Whenever I lose sight of a move,
I remember the time I almost drowned at a long-distance swim meet.

I panicked because I missed that breath.
I lost all composure and couldn't tell which way was up.
— And it ended with my sensei
pulling me out of the water
and me crying my eyes out.
— 'First, calm down.'
'Don't go into a panic.'
'If you calm down, the sea will naturally float you to the surface.'
'Until you're calm, turn on your back
and look at the sky.'

SFX: HYOI SHHH
ひょい
シュッ
SFX: SUH..
スッ……
UMINOYA
OSHIRUKO
Contains
sweet red beans
"The shiruko is heating up. It was put in at 10AM.
DARN...
#13
あ～たか～い

...
SFX: SUSUSU... NYAAT... (=I DO HONNMAAA YAPU YAPU
HEY THEEERE!
SU SU SU
IRIE-SAN!!
ほんわあ～
たぷたぷ
Hot cans.
.....
SFX: PORI... (SCRATCH)
What's goin' on? You warmed them in hot water? For me?!
YOU'RE A LIFE SAVER!!
Nakamura-san!!

—Yeah.
After every long-distance swim meet,
I have hiyashi ame and watermelon waiting for me
because to a worn out body
the sweetness of that hiyashi ame is tasty enough to make me go numb.

Even now, I can never forget that.
First, calm down.
Don't go into a panic.
The sweetness of that hiyashi ame
WHEEEW! THAT IS SWEET!
IT REALLY IS!
If you calm down, the sea will naturally float you to the surface.
— Or my sensei's words.
Until you're calm, turn on your back and look at the sky.

Chapter 101

# Swimming Man ②

Elizabeth and Harunobu-kun.

# 3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

—If I lose today,
of which the top 2 rise in class.
We have 10 matches a year
There's a total of 24 people in B2.
平常心是道
ウミノヤ
おしるこ缶
将棋会館
or I'll lose my chance at going up a class.
I'll have to win every remaining match in this period

I consider myself a pretty patient player,
— But this boy is something else.
He's like this at 19 years old...?
I consider myself a pretty patient player,
— But this boy is something else.
He's like this at 19 years old...?
At the end of a 2-hour long think...
Kiriyama retreated his Gin.
he probably anticipated that I would use my kei.
— But
by pulling back a piece he's already moved forward,
even if he's thinking about what'll happen further down the line, he's still putting himself 'a move behind'...

SFX SUH TASHIH
—He has a careful
and probably very quiet shogi game...
—And he's stopping to think again here...?
スッ…
パシ
パシ

スッ
He played that because he was predicting this board?!!
I get it now ...!!
So that -3-9 Gin was
8-6
Kaku
.....!!

I never anticipated he'd read this far ahead.
but
I was thinking 'He sure is taking a while...'
In an instant, I felt a sensation
like a gigantic fish was slipping by me.
—You cannot get carried away by this!
The tide is changing.
Calm down!!

SFX PASHIH PASHIH
SFX PASHIH
SFX KARAN
Kiriyama's formation is in disorder
But
I lost a kei... that hurts
Okay, what do I do now?

SPK SUH
— Now he's...
organizing his formation...?
This sensation... I remember it.
— That's right.
It's from the first time I went up against Souya back in C2.

A huge
ferocious yet
beautiful creature
slipped by C2 and C1 in an instant.
Even though I was a creature that swam, too,
he felt like he a fish, not a human.
He was on a whole different plane of existence.
— I couldn't help but feel 'There was really nothing I could do against this guy.'

— I
If I'd let that end with me drowning back then
The first time I touched a shogi piece was when I was 6 years old.
—But I couldn't pretend it didn't hurt.
wouldn't be playing shogi for 40 years!!
SFX: KANNN

SFX PASHIHH
3-6
Kei.....
.....!!

SEKI BAICHIN SONOH KAISEKI NO E...
ボッ
ガボボボ
ボコッ
ガボッ

OKAY,
HERE YOU ARE.
SFX GUPIH
SFX KOTOH
SFX PAKYAH
ICE?
HERE.
YEAH
ONE
SFX KARAN
HIYASHI AME AND... WHISKEY?
YOU DRINK SOME RATHER ODD THINGS, DON'T YOU?

— SEEING AS YOU COME HERE SO OFTEN, ARE YOU PERHAPS A SHOGI PLAYER, TOO?
YES.
HEY,
It's so sweet and thick!
HIYASHI AME AND WHISKEY...
I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE DRINK ONE LIKE THIS...
Amesky?
I WAS SURPRISED, TOO, AT FIRST,
— BUT IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE ADDICTING.
THIS CUP SURE TAKES ME BACK.
I USED TO DRINK THIS AT MY WIFE'S PARENTS HOUSE ALL THE TIME
THAT'S QUITE A DIFFICULT JOB...
OH, I SEE.
WHETHER HE WON OR LOST
WE GET ALL SORTS OF SHOGI PLAYERS IN HERE,
BUT WITH IRIE-SAN YOU REALLY NEVER CAN TELL.

I decided I can't worry too much.
—But
On days I lose, I'm introspective.
On days I win, I'm really happy.
—This sea is still vast.
And there will be plenty of other days.
Chapter 104 END

## ARE THERE SHOGI PLAYERS THAT GET BETTER GRADUALLY?

I learned shogi when I was 6 years old and I entered the Shoureikai when I was 10 years old. In those 4 years, I can state with certainty that I didn't improve at a constant rate. I got a lot better really fast from ages 7 to 8. In concrete terms, I went from amateur 5-kyuu to 4-dan. Very short periods of spectacular improvement are very much found at the pro level. Shogi is a game of logic, so gradually improving step by step is much more common than this sort of rapid burst of improvement, but when I look at examples of shogi players, they sometimes seem to grasp a sense of something. Perhaps you could call this talent.

So you make it through the severe world of the Shoureikai and make it to working as a shogi player. But really, that's where the battle actually begins. If you win, you're in heaven. Your mood couldn't be higher and your bank account sings. If you lose, it's hell. You feel awful and your wallet is empty. And the days of those swamp-like battles continue on and on.

When you become a shogi player, you don't have the periods of of improvement you had as a kid that came as natural as bamboo growing. After all, you've already acquired tons of techniques so there's not much higher to go. All you can do is improve little by little. So normally the most vital methods for accomplishing that are studying, research, and practice. But there are those that do that that get better, and those that do that and do not. Why...? I don't know. I really can't give any answer but that.

However, there are also players that completely transform without warning. I believe that up to age 30, everyone has the potential for that. At some point, you just start winning rapidly. Even if that's what it looks to amateurs, pro players working in the same industry know a lot about potential, so they frequently aren't surprised.

I think probably, players in those periods find a harmony between technique and spirit and that comes out in their moves... a bit hard to understand, isn't it? Yes, it's a pretty hard world to understand. To supplement that, the game of shogi is a science, and matches are one of the humanities. Something hard to pinpoint, something like fighting spirit, is an important element in deciding wins and losses. So I feel that when your humanities brain and science brain are in sync with each other, you win like crazy.

Now then, after age 30, or at a certain set age, you barely have these explosive win streaks anymore. Still, you need to get better or you won't be able to stand a chance against younger players. This rides on daily studying and stamina. Stamina is important among all else. Tenacity is vital to matches, but stamina is indispensable for keeping up that tenacity. Your mind and body are one. But... oh, it's so difficult. Since the number of various things outside of shogi increase.

Senzaki Manabu is 44 years old. That's a difficult age, but he's still giving it his all. He solves mating shogi puzzles, he goes to study groups, he hits punching bags to keep his body sharp, and he has the determination to keep winning and winning.

# 3月のライオン

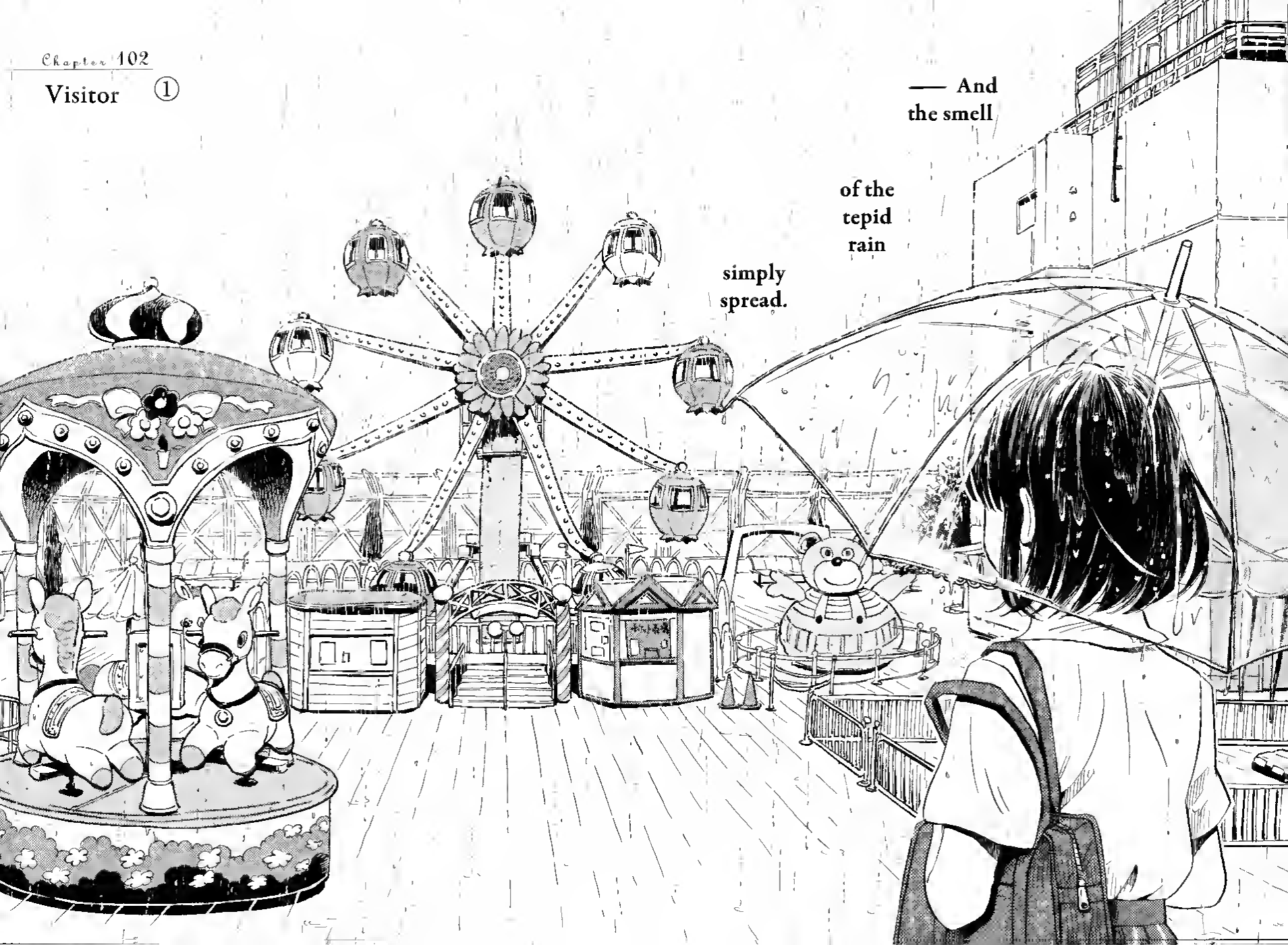
March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

'There's a sale on handicraft materials.'
— I was invited by Hina to go out into town to a big handicraft store.
'Since we had come all this way, we went up to the amusement park on the train station building's roof.
We shopped until I was about to keel over
But at the entrance, there was a poster saying the park was closed.
今まで
ありがとう!
遊園閉園
おやすみ
ウサウヤ
— And as we stood there for a moment, she said with a sigh
I'VE
COME HERE BEFORE
Her sentence cut off there.
AND
WITH ONEI-CHAN, MY MOM...

Chapter 102

# Visitor ①



He'd collapsed in his workshop.
Hina-chan's grandpa was hospitalized.
OH, OJII-CHAN
YOU WERE JUST BROUGHT IN YESTERDAY!
I'M LEAVING
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE
AFTER THEY DO A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF EVERYTHING
WHEN CAN I GO HOME?
KAY, SO,
—— AND IT'LL TAKE 2 TO 3 DAYS FROM THEN
THEY SAID THE DOCTOR'S CONSULTATION DAY IS THE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, THURSDAY
THEY CAN DO SOMETHING CALLED A CATHETER-IZATION TEST
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO DO AN EXAMINATION?

HOW ABOUT THIS TIME WE GET A FEW PROPER EXAMINATIONS SINCE YOU'RE HERE?
HAAH
I JUST GET A LITTLE DIZZY
I TOLD YOU, THERE'S NOTHIN' WRONG WITH ME
Oh, COME NOW,
YOU TWO GET ALONG...
YEP, I'D SAY THAT MEAN THE OLD MAN AT THE SAKUMA MEDICAL OFFICE IS A QUACK
MY BLOOD PRESSURE WAS DOWN RECENTLY THOUGH
ARRHYTHMIA, HUH?
Since Ojii-chan entered the hospital
Akari-san and Hina-chan have seemed really on edge...
I DECIDED I'M GONNA LIVE TO 100 YEARS OLD.
RELAX.
YEAH, LET'S DO A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION
JUST KIDDING
DON'T LOOK SO SCARED, AKARI!
OJII-CHAN!!

If something happened to Ojii-chan,
then the only ones left in this house
would be those 3 sisters.
— And when I think about how lonesome the three of them are,
OKAY
YES, THAT'S OKAY
LEAVE IT TO ME ROGER
my heart
slowly starts to hurt.
SFX: ASHIH

SFX: PIH
KIRIYAMA-SENSEI!
C'MON, COULD YOU PLEASE CONTINUE?
KIRIYAMA-SENSEI, I THINK PRETTY SOON EVEN YOU MIGHT BE HAVING A HARD TIME IF YOU'RE STARTING DOWN 2 PIECES, RIGHT?
THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR
WE'VE FINALLY MADE IT TO THE SEMI-FINALS OF THE COMPANY CREW BATTLE B-CLASS, SO...
IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAY NEED TO GET TO A PERIOD WHERE YOU GO ALL OUT, ISN'T IT SENSEI?
SENSEI... DO I SEEM LIKE I CAN REALLY 'SEE' TO YOU TODAY?
IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF... I KNOW I'M STARTING TO GET A GRASP OF THIS GAME.
IT'S CALLED... 'WHOLE-BOARD PERCEPTION', ISN'T IT?
SFX KUKKUKKU KUIH KUKUKU
SFX KURUH (TURN)

SFX SUSUUUUUUUUH PAHI
スス
パチ
パチ
SFX PEKORI (NOD)
Okay, good job, everyone.
Huh?! Ah?! Hold on, sensei?!
WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY PLAY SERIOUSLY LIKE THAT?! IS THE 'SATORI GENERATION'?!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO DO ANYTHING ELSE?! LIKE... TRY TO ENCOURAGE US?!
T/N THE 'SATORI GENERATION IS A PHRASE COINED IN 2013 DESCRIBING THE CURRENT GENERATION AS HAVING NO AMBITION
You're a demon Kiriyama-sensei!! You big dummy!!
UWAAAAAAAN!!
We'll remember this! You can forget about graduating!! (I want you to teach me next year too)
AH, HELLO
I JUST LEFT SCHOOL.
NO, IT'S COMPLETELY FINE
YES
YES
SFX PIPIPIPIPI

OH, REALLY?
I STILL HAVE A LITTLE MORE WORK TO DO,
SO DO YOU THINK YOU COULD HEAD TO THE HOUSE?
I TOLD HINA AND MONO TO MEET YOU,
BUT I THINK THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT OJII-CHAN
I TOLD THEM TO COOK UP SOME RICE ALREADY,
SO WOULD YOU MIND GOING TO THE BUTCHER TO GET 4 HAMBURGER STEAKS?
OH, AND ALSO A CORN CREAM CROQUETTE!
OKAY, HAMBURGER STEAKS AND A CORN CREAM CROQUETTE
ANY-THING ELSE?
UM,
ALSO 10 'BITE-SIZED CUTLETS', PLEASE!!
THAT'LL MAKE MOMO HAPPY
肉のタカマ
特売
OKAY,
I CAN PUT THE BITE-SIZED CUTLETS INTO A BENTO
AND IF I FREEZE THEM I CAN MAKE KATSUDON !!
MMMM...
RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO TRY TO LESSEN AKARI-SAN'S BURDEN AS MUCH AS I CAN...
Now I just need milk and... calpis
We ran pretty low yesterday

T/N: KATSUDON IS BREADED PORK OVER RICE

— This is the third year I've been crossing this bridge like this
heading to Hina-chan's house...
At first, I would get nervous and ask every time
'Is it okay if I come over?' or 'I'm not being a nuisance, am I?'...
But now, I'm at the point where I can anticipate what'll be in their fridge and I'll go buy things for them.
It sure is odd.
GOOD EVENIIIING!
GOOD EVENIIING!
HM?
A GUEST?
As I called out
I suddenly felt a sense of unease...
I sensed that there were people inside, but they didn't respond.....

Something like this has never happened at the Kawamoto household before.
REI-CHAN
.....
Something odd is going on, I thought.
HM?
UM
YES
OH, WHO IS THIS? ARE YOU
HINA'S FRIEND?

scattered around the room.
SO WOULD YOU MIND COMING AGAIN ANOTHER TIME?
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT I HAVE TO TALK ABOUT TODAY,
That person's awfully bright voice
— But, what I was most concerned about
was the side of her face I could see that did not turn towards me.
—— Suddenly
...IT'S KIRIYAMA.
SAY, WHAT IS YOUR NAME, SON?

AND HE LEFT
HE SAID HE'D GOTTEN A NEW GIRLFRIEND
Akari-san's words floated across my mind.
BEING THE FATHER TO A DIFFERENT CHILD
NOW HE'S OFF IN A NEW HOUSE
— I see... Hina-chan...
HEY.
...
HEY, SO, KIRIYAMA-KUN
UM... ARE YOU LISTENING?
SFX: PORON PORON ... PORON ...
Then this person is your.....

ガサ…
EXCUSE ME
HUH?
HEY, HOLD ON, YOU…
4G 18:06
Akari
Today 3:05 PM
I'll rush right over, so please, stay with her.
Roger.
Send
SFX: GASA GIH
SFX: POOHN
SFX: SUH

REI-CHAN

Chapter 102 END

• Rough of the cover for the Lion spin-off Fighter

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

Chapter 103

# Visitor ②

He came to visit the night Ojii-chan was hospitalized.
This man calling himself their father
talked and talked in a well-projected voice...
WHEW.
THIS PLACE SURE TAKES ME BACK.

THIS HOUSE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.
IT REALLY HAS A SORT OF
CALMING FEEL TO IT...

ANYHOW, MOMO,
COME 'ERE.
LOOKS LIKE WE FINALLY GET TO MEET, HUH?
HOW ABOUT YOU LET ME HOLD YOU?
SFX GYUH... (SQUEEZE)
DAD?
COME ON.

HINA-CHAN, IT'S 7 O'CLOCK ALREADY.
DON'T YOU THINK MOMO-CHAN'S GETTING HUNGRY?
MOMO-CHAN, I BOUGHT SOME CORN CREAM CROQUETTES FOR YOU!
Corn cream ?!
YOU LIKE THAT, DON'T YOU?
YEAH!
MAYBE IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE GOT MOMO-CHAN HER DINNER FIRST
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
AH... YEAH!! I AGREE LET'S DO THAT
C'MON, MOMO
HOW 'BOUT WE GO EAT DINNER OVER THERE?
OKAY!

Hina-chan, where is Akari Onei-chan?
SHE'LL BE BACK SOON, DON'T WORRY.
SFX PARAN
ARE YOU
THE TYPE THAT GETS TOLD THEY CAN'T READ BETWEEN THE LINES A LOT?
LET ME SEE...
WELL,
REGARDLESS OF READING BETWEEN LINES...
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE HERE TODAY?
HAHAH!
YEP, YOU SURE CAN'T
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D SAY
THAT REALLY
I FEEL KINDA BAD
WELL, I'M THEIR FATHER, YOU KNOW?

THEIR FATHER... I SEE.
I HEARD THEIR PARENTS WERE DIVORCED
HOW-EVER
AND WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH YOU EXACTLY?
ALSO, EVEN IF HE'S DIVORCED, A FATHER IS STILL A FATHER.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH ME COMING TO SEE THEM?
WELL, I CAN THINK OF A FEW REASONS. SO JUST TO MAKE SURE...
He has a point...
Normally, seeing as I'm not part of the family, I really shouldn't be butting in like this...
— But
HEY, HEY, WHO ARE YOU EXACTLY?
I CERTAINLY DON'T KNOW YOU
THIS IS QUITE A SURPRISE

'Stay by Hina and Momo's side.'

'Please.'

**— Even I can tell**

**that this isn't a normal situation.**

But anyhow, the thing here
that's most disconcerting is that smile.
WELL, YOU'VE GOT ME
ARE ALL YOUTHS THESE DAYS LIKE THIS?
IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH FOR WHEN YOU GET OUT INTO THE WORK WORLD ACTING LIKE THAT
WELL,
IT'LL BE TOUGH FOR YOU, TOO, BUT I FEEL WORSE FOR THE PEOPLE WORKING WITH YOU
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT?
I met the Kawamoto family in the winter when I was 16.
That was 2 and a half years ago,
and this father has never come up once in conversation.
Also he said 'We finally meet' before.
To the 5 year-old Momo-chan.
Which means he's never once met her.

Why would somebody who wasn't visited in so long
suddenly appear right when Ojii-chan was hospitalized?
The fact that he's just sitting here in the living room acting all cheery and friendly
— makes my discomfort go off the charts.
GARA...
HEY,
WELCOME HOME

IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE, HASN'T IT,
AKARI?
ONEI-CHAN...
SFX: DATAH ZUSUUUH
THANK YOU, HINA.
YOU FED MOMO, DID YOU?
KIRIYAMA-KUN SAID 'GIVE MOMO HER DINNER FIRST'.
I SEE.
I'M SO GLAD KIRIYAMA-KUN CAME.
HEY
WHY DID DAD COME?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA?
NONE AT ALL.
BUT
I'LL TALK TO HIM, SO WHY DON'T YOU GO EAT DINNER WITH MOMO UPSTAIRS?

WELL, I'LL CUT RIGHT TO THE CHASE!!
I'M AKARI, SORRY FOR ALL THE PAIN I'VE CAUSED YOU IN THE PAST.
BUT EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY NOW.
LET'S ALL LIVE HERE TOGETHER AS A FAMILY AGAIN!!
.....
TOGETHER ?
coral coral creamy!

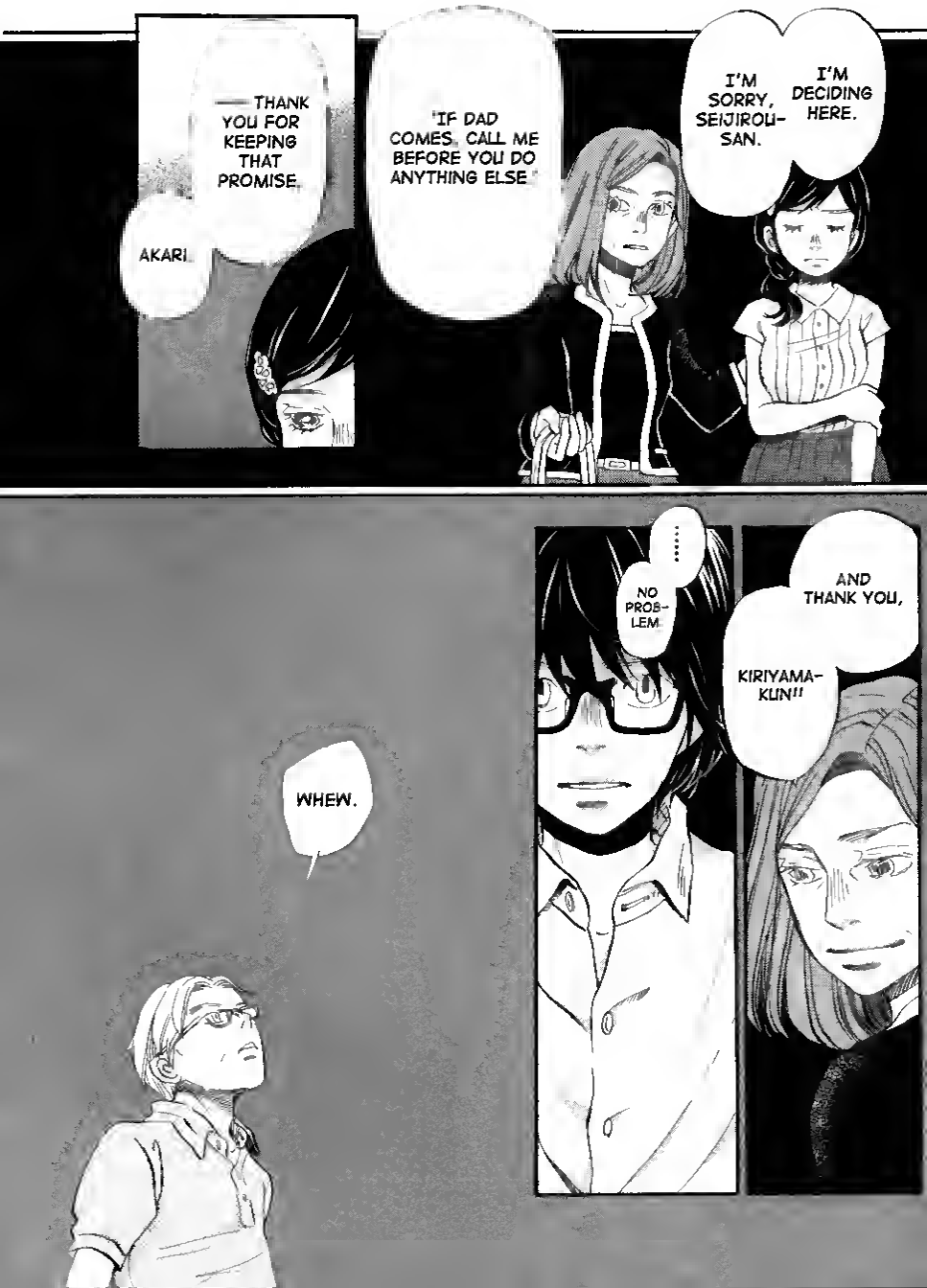
WHY DO YOU ASK THAT?
DO YOU THINK I HAVEN'T BEEN WORRIED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS HOUSE?
I'VE HAD IT ON MY MIND THE ENTIRE TIME.
NOT A DAY'S GONE BY WHEN I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT YOU!!
WHY DO THAT ...
NOW —
OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THIS ...?
I'VE REALLY BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT MOMO.
BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS YOUR MOTHER AND I HAD AS A COUPLE
I NEVER GOT TO SPEND ANY TIME WITH HER AND THAT'S BEEN TEARING ME UP INSIDE.
—BUT STARTING NOW WE
HEY,
UM, HOLD ON...
YOU WANT TO 'LIVE TOGETHER' ...?
DAD,
WHAT ABOUT YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER...?

OF COURSE, THEY'D BE LIVING WITH US.
I SPENT FOREVER CONVINCING THEM
AND THEY FINALLY CONSENTED.
NOW, I KNOW IT'LL BE AWKWARD AT FIRST,
— BUT DESPITE THAT, I
HONESTLY WANT TO LIVE WITH YOU GUYS.
.....
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YES, ABSOLUTELY.
— BUT
I CAN ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'D BE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT ALL THIS...
I MEAN YOUR FAMILY WOULD BE EXPANDING ALL OF A SUDDEN
AND OF COURSE AT FIRST IT'LL BE QUITE CONFUSING

I DON'T MIND IF YOU ALL MOVE TO OJII-CHAN'S SHOP FOR A LITTLE WHILE!
BUT IF YOU'RE ANXIOUS ABOUT IT,
—AND WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME
TO ALL GET USED TO BEING TOGETHER!!
HUH?
OJII-CHAN'S HOUSE...?
THAT'S...
IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH US SLOWLY GETTING USED TO BEING TOGETHER...
WE COULD ALSO JUST KEEP GOING THE WAY WE HAVE BEEN... RIGHT?
PLEASE HOLD ON A MINUTE.
ISN'T THIS ALL A BIT ABRUPT?
TH-
THAT'S LIKE
YOU'RE MAKING US...

YOU SAID EARLIER THAT YOU WERE 'FINALLY GETTING TO MEET' MOMO-CHAN, RIGHT?
SO THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME COMING HERE SINCE SHE WAS BORN, RIGHT?
——SO THEN WHY IS IT THAT OUT OF THE BLUE
YOU'RE ASKING IF WE CAN ALL 'LIVE TOGETHER'?
AND YOU JUST SAID OFFHAND
'YOU GUYS CAN MOVE TO OJII-CHAN'S HOUSE...' ——TO ME
THAT SOUNDS A LOT LIKE SAYING 'ALL OF YOU, GET OUT OF HERE'
IN WHICH CASE IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU 'WANT TO LIVE TOGETHER' AT ALL DOES IT?
ALSO YOU SEEM TO BE IN SOMETHING OF A RUSH
HEY, UM... DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE HEADING HOME?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
THIS REALLY ISN'T A SITUATION FOR STRANGERS TO BE BUTTING INTO, YOU KNOW?!
SFX PANNN

SEIJIROU-SAN!
THAT'S ENOUGH,
HOW OLD ARE YOU AGAIN?
23? 24?
....HEY, AKARI,
OH, SISTER-IN-LAW!
IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME.
DO YOU STILL NEED YOUR AUNT AROUND TO DECIDE ANYTHING?
YOU'RE REALLY STILL JUST A GIRL, AREN'T YOU?


— THANK YOU FOR KEEPING THAT PROMISE.
AKARI.
"IF DAD COMES, CALL ME BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE."
I'M DECIDING HERE.
I'M SORRY, SEIJIROU-SAN.
WHEW.
……
NO PROB-LEM.
AND THANK YOU,
KIRIYAMA-KUN!!

GIVEN THE LOOK ON MY SISTER-IN-LAW'S FACE,
I DON'T THINK SHE'S GOING TO A LISTEN TO A WORD I SAY.
—— WE'LL GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS FOR TODAY.
WE'LL HAVE TO TRY AGAIN LATER
OH WELL...
AHHH,
AND HERE I'D THOUGHT WE'D GET OUR FIRST TALK AS A FAMILY WITHOUT ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.
TOO BAD.

Chapter 103 END

Chapter 104

# Promise

• Rough of the jacket for the special edition Fighter CD

# 3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

He kept talking on and on

— about his new girlfriend.

'SHE'S AS HONEST AS A NEWBORN BABY '

'BELIEVE ME, SHE'S INCREDIBLY TRUSTWORTHY '

'HONESTLY SHE'S A GREAT GIRL '

The last we saw of him, was the view of him from the side facing our mother who had collapsed into tears.

'IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE EITHER OF THEM SMILED AT ME '

'AND AKARI AND HINA DON'T LIKE ME MUCH ANYHOW '

'I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT...

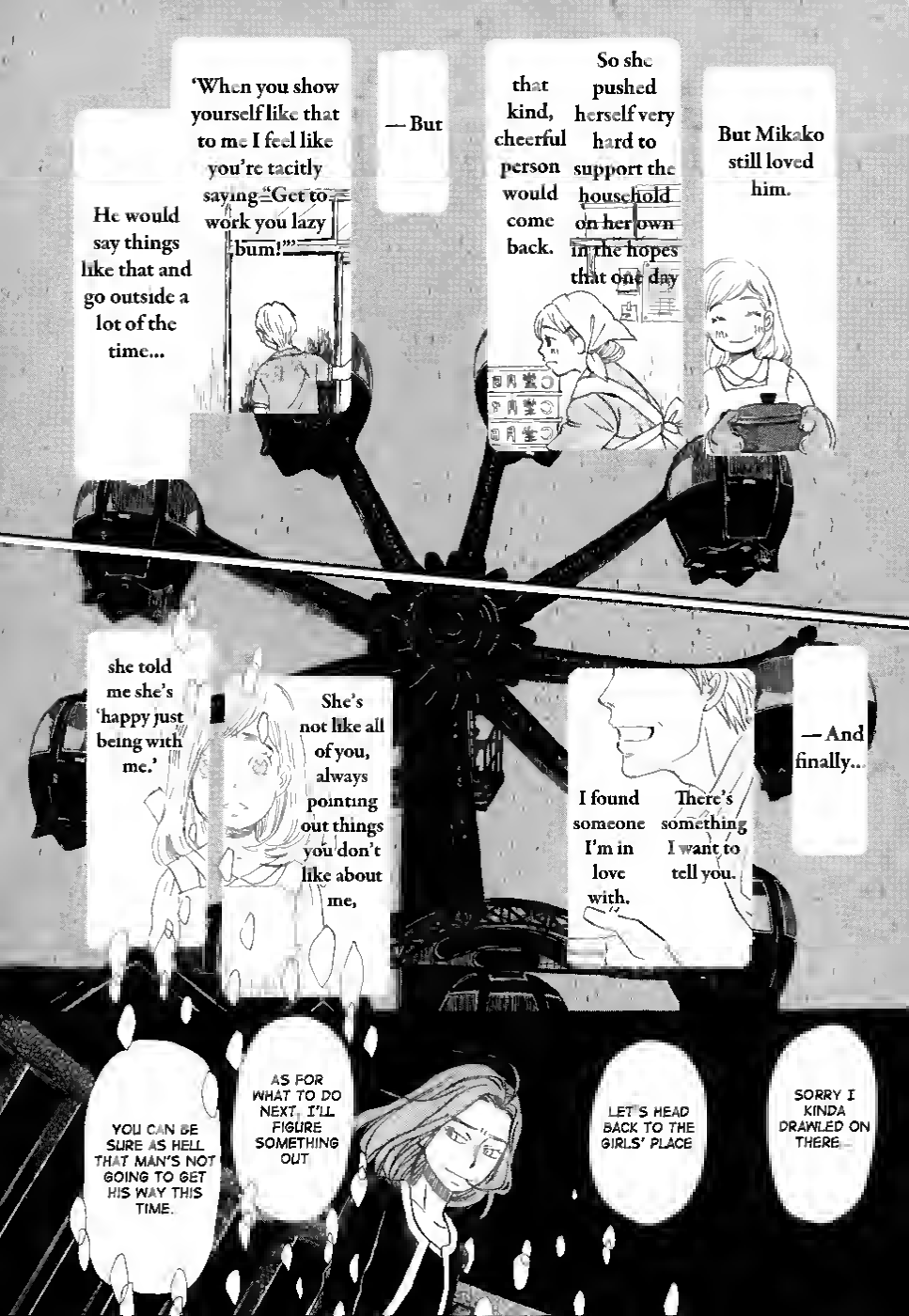
'HUH? THE KIDS?'

'WELL OF COURSE I CAN'T TAKE CUSTODY '

BUT I'VE GOT A NEW LIFE I'M GOING TO LIVE, TOO '

PLEASE DON'T TELL OJII-CHAN ...
HE'S UNDERGOING A CATHETER EXAMINATION, HE CAN'T MOVE FOR 3 DAYS...
AND IF HE HEARS ABOUT THIS, HE'LL COME STORMING OUT OF THAT HOSPITAL...
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO OJII-CHAN,
WE...
MY NIECES GREW UP TO BE SUCH GOOD GIRLS.
THEY'RE ALWAYS THINKING OF OTHER PEOPLES' FEELINGS ...
—— BUT THAT'S WHY THEY KEEP TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THAT DAD'S FEELINGS
AND GET SWALLOWED BY THEM.
'Isn't there anything else we can do?'
'Dad probably has some other reason he's not saying, doesn't he?'

YOU SEE, THOSE GIRLS' FATHER
WAS AN EXTREMELY KIND AND SERIOUS PERSON AT FIRST
HONESTLY, I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO KNOW ABOUT ANY MORE OF THE AWFUL THINGS HE DID
I WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED IF THEY'D NEVER ENCOUNTERED THEIR DAD AGAIN
THOSE GIRLS WANTED TO BELIEVE THEIR FATHER
EVEN AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, SOMEWHERE DEEP DOWN,
I FEEL BAD FOR THE KIDS...
—Otherwise he could never
have done something like this to his family... they'd say.
and holed himself up inside.
he said, 'Ojii-chan is just too strict.'
—So then he started helping out at Mikazuki Temple, but then
he got into a fight with a student's parent, suddenly said, 'I can't do this anymore!' and quit.
He'd been a teacher at a cram school, but one day
But he was utterly fragile when it came to momentary stumbles ...


He would say things like that and go outside a lot of the time...
'When you show yourself like that to me I feel like you're tacitly saying "Get to work you lazy bum!"'
— But
that kind, cheerful person would come back.
So she pushed herself very hard to support the household on her own in the hopes that one day
But Mikako still loved him.
she told me she's 'happy just being with me.'
She's not like all of you, always pointing out things you don't like about me,
I found someone I'm in love with.
There's something I want to tell you.
— And finally...
YOU CAN BE SURE AS HELL THAT MAN'S NOT GOING TO GET HIS WAY THIS TIME.
AS FOR WHAT TO DO NEXT, I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT
LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE GIRLS' PLACE
SORRY I KINDA DRAWLED ON THERE...

KIRIYAMA-KUN,
I REALLY WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE HELP YOU'VE ALWAYS GIVEN US...
SEE YA.
UM,
.....
THERE'S A FAVOR I'D LIKE TO ASK.
MOMO-CHAAAN! ONEI-CHAN IS HERE!
Comiing!
WELL, WE'LL BE GOING NOW!
Goodbyyye, Sensei!!
THAT HINA-CHAN FROM THE KAWAMOTO FAMILY SURE IS A RESPONSIBLE YOUNG LADY...
I DO HOPE HER GRANDFATHER IS RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL SOON...
See you tomoooo-rooow!
I'm sure Okari-san is having a hard time...
SFX PEKORI (NOD)

SFX: DOKUN (BA-DUMP)
pasin
pasin
pasin
Kekeroge!
HEY,
HINA, MOMO! ♡
I REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU GUYS.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

HEY, COME OVER HERE
AND WE'LL GO GET SOME SHAVED ICE TOGETHER! ☆
SORRY, WE'VE GOT GO BE GETTING HOME.
HEY, THERE'S NO NEED TO BE BASHFUL.
C'MON.
WHY DON'T YOU LET DAD CARRY YOU...?
LET'S GO, MOMO!
SFX HYOI
UH...
R-REI-CHAN!!
Aah! It's Rei-chaaaan!
HINA-CHAN, WOULD YOU MIND HOLDING HER BAG?

IF IT WERE ME, THIS WOULD BE MY NEXT TARGET.
ME, DOING HERE?
OH, IT'S YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THAT'S SIMPLE
I COULD ASK YOU THE EXACT SAME THING.
ARE YOU A STALKER?
WHAT? YOU'RE KINDA SCARY.
I CALLED MISAKI-SAN AND AKARI-SAN A MINUTE AGO.
REI-CHAN..
.....

I'M ABOUT TO HEAD TO YOUR HOUSE, HINA-CHAN.
BUT WHY DON'T YOU AND MOMO-CHAN GO EAT SOMETHING SWEET AT 'MIYOSHI-SAN'S'?
.....NO,
I'LL GO, TOO.
I WANT TO KNOW
EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT MY DAD.

C'MON, MOMO! LET'S GO GARGLE!
ARE YOU GUYS SPRINGING A TRAP ON ME OR SOMETHING?
Okaaay
OH, WHAT'S ALL THIS?
SO, YOU CAME, HUH?
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
HUH?
THE MOOD IS SO UNPLEASANT IN HERE
HOW ABOUT WE START AGAIN WITH A CLEAN SLATE?
—YOU'VE ALL GOT SUCH STERN LOOKS ON YOUR FACES
WHAT, ARE YOU AT THE AGE WHEN YOU THINK IT'S COOL TO REBEL AGAINST GROWN-UPS?
OH, I SEE. I DIDN'T ASK THAT, BUT FINE
'I'm Kiriyama.' ☆
I'M KIRIYAMA
—AND WHY ARE YOU HERE, TOO?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT DEFINITION OF 'ADULT' ARE YOU USING? I'D SAY WHAT ONE CALLS AN ADULT VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON,
BUT I WOULD SAY SOMEONE WHO QUALIFIES AS AN ADULT MUST AT A VERY MINIMUM BE ABLE TO 'SUPPORT THEMSELVES'.
I DID SOME INVESTIGATING ON YOU
AND I'D SAY THAT THE ONE THAT LACKS THE QUALIFICATIONS OF BEING AN ADULT MIGHT BE YOU.
HUH?!
HEY!
INVEST-IGATING ...?
HEY, YOU EVER HEARD OF A THING CALLED PRIVACY?!!
WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT 'PRIVACY',
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD PAY A BIT MORE CARE AS TO WHAT YOU SAY ON SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES?
YOU'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF SELLING SECONDHAND CARS, AREN'T YOU?
THANKS TO THAT
WE WERE ABLE TO DECIPHER PRETTY MUCH THE WHOLE SITUATION
Yep. These are the conversation logs and comments he's having with his wife and their friends.
Yep. These are the conversation logs and comments he's having with his wife and their friends.
Also, why does this Saishi Suteo (alias) guy live such a dramatic daily life?
Oh, my. It feels like could write the 100 afternoon drama screenplays with all we're finding here.
HAHA HAHA
LOG
コメント

T/N: THE SCREENNAME HE USES LITERALLY MEANS "WIFE AND CHILDREN THROW AWAY MAN"

SFX: ZUSSHIRI (HEAVY) GESSORI (DISHEARTENED)

Though I think I can guess most of it...
IT'S FINE, GO AHEAD.
I THINK IT'S BEST THE GIRLS HEAR THE WHOLE STORY.
—WELL, I'M HESITANT TO SAY ALL OF IT JUST NOW, BUT I'LL GIVE YOU THE SUMMARIZED VERSION...
UMM...
Due to new woman issues, he was laid off from a used car dealership.
—And he has 1 month left to vacate the employee family hostel.
Right now his current wife is expecting their second child
and he's heard from the family of his mistress (age 27) that...
OKAY.
Thank you.
Yeah.
He actually exceeded my expectations a little there. ☆
SFX: PISHIH
SEIJIROU-SAN,
YOU'RE DOING THE SAME THING AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
I'M ACTUALLY KIND OF... ASTON-ISHED...
AAAH...
NOW THAT I'VE LISTENED TO ALL THIS UNRELATED OUTSIDER HAS TO SAY—

SAAAAY, KIRYAMA-KUN, WHAT EXACTLY DOES A KID LIKE YOU KNOW?
YOU'RE A STUDENT, YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT THE REAL WORLD.
NO...
I MAY BE A STUDENT, BUT I'M ALREADY ACTIVE IN SOCIETY.
HUH? ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
YEAH, YOU'VE GOT A PART TIME JOB OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?
That's not exactly what I was talking about
I'M A PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYER
CLASS B-2 IN THE JAPAN SHOGI ASSOCIA-TION
I'M IN MY 5TH YEAR AS A PRO
AND AS AN ADDENDUM TO THAT
I HAD AN INCOME OF 7.8 MILLION YEN LAST YEAR
I ACTUALLY BROUGHT MY TAX RETURN DOCUMENT ATION JUST IN CASE THIS CAME UP
Tax return
!!
HEY.
IF YOU JUST WANT TO SHOW OFF, THEN I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD GET OUT.
THIS IS A FAMILY DISCUSSION.
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH A STRANGER LIKE YOU.
I THINK NOT.

I'M NO STRANGER !!
SO
I'M
THINKING ABOUT MARRYING HINATA-SAN.

!!
HUH!?
—FOR THAT REASON I'M NOT GOING ANY-WHERE.
AND I WILL BE A PART OF ANY DISCUSSION.
HUH?
NOW...?
HUH?!
MARR...
MA...
MARR
Your cheeks are all hot!
Hina-chan, what's wrong?

Hey, hey, I won't allow it! Not with a boy this arrogant!
HINA, HAVE YOU BEEN GOING OUT WITH THIS BOY?!
Hina-chan looks like an octopus hot dog!
She's all reeed!
Please don't tell me you and this young animal have already ...?!
Hihihi
Hi...
Hina?
HUH.?!
Auntie, y...you're scaring me
I-I-IS THAT SO, KIRIYAMA-KUN?
I didn't realize at all... Oh gosh ...
UM, NO
WE'RE NOT DAYING
—OR RATHER,
I HAVEN'T TOLD HER YET
UH...
YOU KNOW SHE'S RIGHT NEXT TO YOU, RIGHT?
...OH, RIGHT.
Heeey! Heeey! Your body is all hot, Hina-chan! Do you have a fever?
—Also she seems pretty flustered... That's my daughter, you're talking about, you know!!

.....
SFX: BIKUH (SURPRISE)
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK A GIRL IS GOING TO JUST SAY 'OKAY' TO THAT?
HEY, SERIOUSLY, WHAT WAS THAT?
YOU TOTALLY SCREWED THAT UP, YOU KNOW?
Hey....
Do you know anything about romance or mood? I feel bad for Hina.....
IT'S OKAY,
I'LL TAKE MY TIME AFTER THIS
AND CONVINCE HER!!
Boy, you really are incredible, Kiriyama my boy!!!
Hold on, convince her?!!
BU HU WAHH!
Oh God, I don't think I can take much more!
OH, DEAR! AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
OH, KIRIYAMA-KUN! HONESTLY!
NYAA NYAA
NYAA NYAA
NYAA
SFX: BASHI BASHI BASHIHHH

Hey, look!! This is all your fault you know, Kiriyama!!
Is Hina okay?!
AKARIIII!
GET A HOT WASHCLOTH!! AND SOME COLD WATER!!
KYAH!
OH MY, HINAAA?! ARE YOU OKAY?!
HINA-CHAN?! AKAR! ONEI-CHAN! LOOK, HINA-CHAN!
SFX: FURAFU...A~~~... (WOBBLE)
BUT YA KNOW, NOGUCHI.
HE'S UP AGAINST THAT MONSTER FATHER.
TRYING TO INTERVENE IN THE AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER HOUSEHOLD IS AN INSANELY HIGH HURDLE TO JUMP OVER.
WELL, I WON'T SAY THAT CAN'T HAPPEN.
YOU DON'T THINK EVERYONE'S BACKING AWAY FROM HIM AT THE KAWAMOTO HOUSEHOLD RIGHT NOW, DO YOU?
DO YOU THINK KIRIYAMA-KUN IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?
UWah.... Suteo's so scary. I keep finding more stuff...
カチャ
SFX: KACHA KACHA...
HUH?!
Then, do you mean...?
IS THE PERFECT MOMENT FOR KIRIYAMA TO STRIKE!!
BUT IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT THAT NOW
IF HE STARTS READING INTO THE SITUATION, HE'LL JUST GET BEATEN TO A PULP!!
CAN WIN AGAINST 'A PERSON THAT DOESN'T THINK ABOUT ANYONE BUT HIMSELF' !!
THERE'S NO WAY 'A PERSON THAT THINKS ABOUT THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS'
SFX: KUWAHH

——GEN-ER ALLY,
IF IT COMES TO SOMETHING THAT'S A BIG DEAL FOR THE WOMAN HE LOVES
IF A MAN ENDS UP AT 'I READ TOO MUCH INTO THE SITUATION AND COULDN'T DO ANYTHING
THEN THERE'S NO MEANING IN HAVING BEEN BORN A MAN!!
Chapter 104 END

To my editor, T-Da-san.
To everyone at Young Animal.
To everyone at Hakusensha.
To all of my assistants that have helped out by drawing wonderful backgrounds.
Jyukunaga, Betty, Chiyo-chan, Wachita-san, Emily, Macchan, Ono-san.
To Nawata, the designer.
To everyone at Toppan Printing!!
To all the staff at bookstores across the country!!
To supervisor Yamazaki-sensei!!
To Fujiwara-san, Chama-san, Masukawa-san, and Masu-san from BUMP OF CHICKEN.
And to all of you readers, I wish to express my love and gratitude.

From Umino

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chapter Omake

# Umino and Her Happy Friends

HELLO, THIS IS UMINO!

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, I WAS ABLE TO BRING YOU VOLUME 10 OF 3-GATSU NO LION!!

IS EVERYONE OUT THERE DOING WELL?

IT'S BEEN 7 YEARS SINCE SERIALIZATION STARTED IN 2007

SO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED THAT SOMEONE WHO WAS IN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL NOW.

I EVEN FINALLY SWAM MY WAY TO VOLUME 10, THE SAME VOLUME THAT MY LAST WORK 'HONEY AND CLOVER' ENDED ON

TAWAAAN

TAWAAAN

I wonder how those kids are all doing?

I HAD SURGERY AFTER VOLUME 9 CAME OUT—

I'M SORRY FOR THE LONG WAIT FROM VOLUME 9

AND I WAS LIKE THIS FOR A WHILE

I WAS HOSPITALIZED WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR VOLUME 9 TO COME OUT.

SFX GARAGARAGARA (WHEELS TURNING)

BUT AFTER THE SURGERY, WHEN I WAS STILL ONLY HALF THERE FROM THE ANESTHESIA AS THEY BROUGHT ME OUT OF THE OPERATION ROOM,

Umino-saan! Umino-saan! It's oveeeer!

That scene you always see in dramas and stuff.

SFX SOOOH

—— LATER, FROM WHAT I HEARD,

AFTER THEY TOOK ME OUT I JUST KEPT REPEATING 'I'M SO COLD' OVER AND OVER.

Anaesthetic attacked in my back

Also, for some reason once I had a CT and an MRI done, I found out that my tailbone was bent 90° and broken and I curled up into a ball

SFX KATA KATA KATA KATA

Editor Talk

'Er~~ I just thought you'd like to know since you pushed yourself so hard to get it finished. ☆'

Umino-saaan! The new volume's gone on saaaale!

THIS

OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, AND I REMEMBER WONDERING WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS GOING ON (HAHA)

ガラガラ…

the first thing that I heard was

WAS WHEN I WAS TRYING TO GET USED TO WALKING AGAIN.

THE BIGGEST CLIMAX BUT

You can do it, Umino-san!!

SHOO...

A bottle of anaesthetic hung around the neck

Friend

SFX: YORO YORO (WOBBLE)

THE NEXT DAY, MY EDITOR, T-DA-SHI CAME TO VISIT ME AND BROUGHT A CASHMERE BLANKET WHICH HE FLUNG ON ME LIKE A NET. I WAS REALLY THANKFUL.

*Apparently this is the most comforting thing he could think of...

Umino-san!! They ordered an additional printing!!

SFX: BAHH

CLOSE-UP VIEW OF MY HAND

Pajamas

Yellow Liquid

Shaking Hand

Paper Cup

SFX: CHAPO CHAPO

SO I PRESSED THE 'HOT LEMON DRINK' BUTTON I PUT IN A PAPER CUP...

I COULDN'T EAT THE HOSPITAL'S LIQUID FOOD, SO IN ORDER TO GET SOME CALORIES TO PERK MYSELF UP

SFX: GARA GARA GARA GARA FURU FURU... (SHAKING)

SO I DREW UP THIS VOLUME 10 YOU'RE HOLDING GOING THROUGH DAYS LIKE THAT.

MY BODY WAS QUITE WEARY,

BUT SOME WONDERFUL THINGS HAPPENED, TOO

Fainting in agony — AND

Quit laughing !!

How can things like that happen to you every after you've been hospitalized?!

Oh, Youko-chan, you almost don't laugh!

My wound opened

uM

OWW WC CH CH

O333... Z-Z-Z-Z333

HUU HU HUUU

BUT FOR SOME REASON I KEPT HAVING THE ILLUSION THAT IT WAS A 'URINALYSIS CUP'!

Urine Collection Room

What's more, this was right in front of me.....

THE FIRST MANGA I'D EVER BOUGHT WAS CALLED 'RIBON NO KISHI' (PRINCESS KNIGHT).

AS A LITTLE GIRL, I WAS ENTRANCED BY IT AND I DREW AND DREW, IMITATING THE DRAWINGS.

I JUST STOOD THERE AND CRIED FOR OVER 30 MINUTES.

VUAAAAAAAAA AAAAAAAA AAAAAAA

Bouquet of flowers my editor brought me.

IN MAY OF THIS YEAR (2014) I HAD THE HONOR OF RECEIVING THE 'GRAND PRIZE OF THE TEZUKA OSAMU CULTURAL AWARD FOR MANGA' FROM ASAHI SHIMBUN.

THAT WAS AN AWARD ABOUT WHICH I THOUGHT 'WHAT IF I WANT IT SO BAD I GET CURSED SO I NEVER GET IT?'

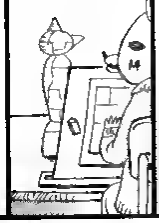
AND WHEN I WAS NOTIFIED I'D WON IT

I WAS SUCH A MESS, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ..

It was is my most beaten-down state, the night before a deadline...

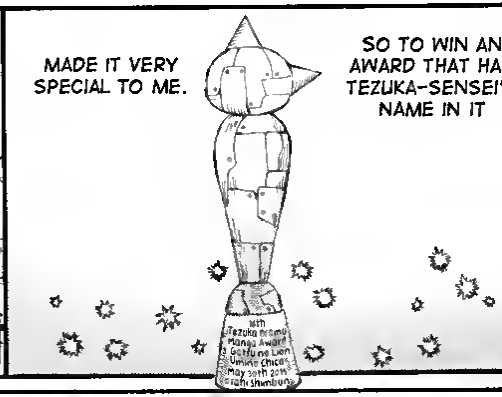
THAT ATOM WATCHES OVER ME AND FURTHER INSPIRED ME TO PUSH MYSELF IN DRAWING MANGA.

EVEN NOW, AS I DRAW THIS MANUSCRIPT, I HAVE THAT ATOM (ASTRO) NEXT TO ME.



MADE IT VERY SPECIAL TO ME.

SO TO WIN AN AWARD THAT HAS TEZUKA-SENSEI'S NAME IN IT




*T/N HACHIMITSU TO CLOVER ORIGINALLY RAN IN A SMALL MAGAZINE CALLED "CUTIECOMIC" AFTER IT THE MAGAZINE'S PUBLICATION ENDED THE SERIES MOVED TO THE MAGAZINE YOUNG YOU FOR MOST OF ITS RUN. THEN LATER MOVED TO CHORUS*

THE MAGAZINE I WAS SERIALIZED IN SUSPENDED PUBLICATION AND I HAD TO END THE SERIES.

I'D HAD THE MANUSCRIPTS FOR VOLUME 2 PRETTY MUCH TOGETHER, BUT BEFORE IT EVEN WENT ON SALE

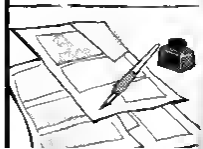
BUT WHEN MY DREAM CAME TRUE AND 'HACHIMITSU TO CLOVER'S' (HONEY AND CLOVER) SERIALIZATION STARTED, AFTER VOLUME 1 WENT ON SALE,

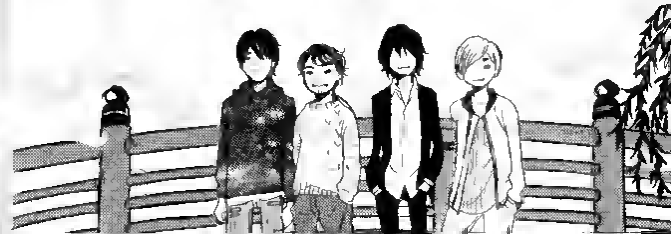
IT WAS PRETTY LATE IN MY LIFE WHEN I BECAME A MANGAKA,

I FIRST STARTED LISTENING TO THEM BACK THEN I FIRST STARTED DRAWING MANGA AS A PROFESSIONAL

I WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO A COLLABORATION WITH THE GROUP BUMP OF CHICKEN FOR THIS, LION VOLUME 10.

— AND THERE WAS ONE OTHER 'WONDERFUL THING'





I DECIDED 'RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT TO GO INTO THIS WITH THE HEART OF A BOY THAT JUST BURST INTO THE WORLD!!'

ENOUGH TO PUSH HEAVY THINGS THAT MADE THAT GIRL START TO GET TIRED LIKE LIFE AND AGE,

I WOULD HAVE TO PUT TONS OF ENERGY INTO MY DRAWING.

I FELT THAT IF I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE HOLD OF THESE THINGS I'D GRABBED ON TO

LATER I GOT ACCEPTED BY ANOTHER COMPANY TO CONTINUE SERIAL-IZATION AND I STARTED RECEIVING ENCOURAGE-MENT FROM MORE PLACES.

IT WAS THEN THAT I STARTED LISTENING TO BUMP OF CHICKEN'S SONGS AGAIN AND AGAIN.

— BUT I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO GIVE UP.

AFTER THE PUBLICATION WAS SUSPENDED, I PACKED MY BACKPACK WITH PRINTS OF 'HACHICLO' STARTED GOING OUT TO BUSINESSES.

IF I 'READ' IT WHILE I 'LISTEN' TO BUMP-SAN'S SONG 'FIGHTER'

WHICH THEY MADE JUST FOR LION, NOTHING MAKES ME HAPPIER.

I'VE DRAWN AN EXTRA STORY CALLED 'FIGHTERS' WHICH IS FILLED WITH GRATITUDE, LOVE, RESPECT, AND ALL THE HAPPY FEELINGS I HAVE FOR THEM.

— SO BECAUSE OF THAT

WHENEVER I WANTED TO FLIP THE SWITCH ON MY ENGINE, I ALWAYS LISTENED TO BUMP SONGS.

AND

I DO HOPE YOU ALL CONTINUE TO WATCH OVER ME

— AND I WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN VOLUME 11.

FROM UMINO

I'M STILL PUSHING MYSELF TO CREATE A MANGA THAT WILL BE READ AGAIN AND AGAIN,

SO I'M DILIGENTLY PUTTING TOGETHER EACH AND EVERY PAGE WITH CARE.

AND FINALLY,

I WANT TO DEEPLY THANK YOU ALL THAT PICKED UP

THIS VOLUME 10...

# BUMP OF CHICKEN

## 試み。ぜひ、あなたに、読んで、聴いてほしい。

【販売形式】

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※配信では「3月のライオン」10巻本編の内容は読めません。※羽海野チカ描き下ろし「3月のライオン」スピンオフは 2015年5月31日までの期間限定で購読可能です。また1つのシリアルナンバーで読める期間は50個までです。

### 羽海野チカ コメント

この曲を初めて聴かせていただいたとき、歌詞の最初の2行でもう3月のライオンのことが全て語られているのがわかってすごいと思いました。
スピンオフは最初粗く作っていたストーリーがあったのですが、歌詞を読んで曲を聴いてイメージが膨らんでいって、だんだんお話が描き直しているうちに、歌の内容に寄っていきました。
こういうやりとりをしながら漫画を描くことがなかったので、とても新鮮で楽しい体験でした。

# 3月のライオン meets

## 漫画界にとっても音楽界にとっても初めての

2014年11月28日、発売になった「3月のライオン」10巻。この10巻の特装版には、ロックバンド・BUMP OF CHICKENが「3月のライオン」のために作った新曲「ファイター」が付いている。この新曲「ファイター」は同日に配信リリースもされるが、そちらでは羽海野チカがこの配信リリースのために描き下ろした「3月のライオン」のスピンオフで同名の「ファイター」も読める仕様だ。今回のコラボはBUMP OF CHICKENの曲をよく聴きながら「3月のライオン」を描いてきた羽海野チカと、メンバー全員が「3月のライオン」を以前より愛読していたBUMP OF CHICKENの両者が、出会い、共鳴したことにより実現したもの。漫画界にとっても音楽界にとっても初めての試み。ぜひ、あなたに、読んで、聴いてほしい。

【ヤングアニマルWEB】 http://www.younganimal.com/ 【3月のライオン公式サイト】 http://3lion.younganimal.com/
【BUMP OF CHICKEN オフィシャルウェブサイト】 http://www.bumpofchicken.com/

# 3月のライオン おさらい読本 初級編

JETS COMICS 既刊 白泉社刊

大好評 羽海野チカ 発売中!!

こんで『3月のライオン』がもっとよりもっともっと面白くなります!!

作中に実際に出て来た、色んな場所を訪問&棋譜をディープ解説&料理をレシピ付きで再現!!

ヤングアニマル誌面&WEBで発表した

キャラクター人気投票

さらに充実の内容でお届け!!

読者の皆さんが選んだ名場面も感想とともに初紹介です!!

カバーイラストは描き下ろし!!

ここでしか読めない描き下ろし漫画

もあり☆

羽海野先生へのQ&Aや

担当・T田さんとの

対談など、

このファンブックのための新企画も満載です。

見逃した人、手に入れられなかった人へ☆

既刊発売時書店向け宣伝POP用に書き下ろしたイラストや一部書店特典だったコミックス販促ペーパーを

再録しました!!

さらに

松井玲奈さん×『3月のライオン』コラボグラビア、

三浦建太郎・高橋二吹士郎の羽海野チカを語る熱い、

「ニコ・ニコルソンのマンガ道場破り」羽海野道場編など、

YA誌面で大好評だった企画も再録!!

大好評発売中!!

A5判　白泉社刊

羽海野チカがデビュー当初、各誌に描いた珠玉の短編をついに集約して1冊に…。

少年探偵・バレエ・ショートストーリー・エッセイなど

様々なジャンルを集めた短編集！

羽海野チカ

# スピカ

羽海野チカ初期短編集

【初出】
ヤングアニマル2013年19号、2014年4、5、7、8、10、15、16、19、20号

【取材協力】
日本将棋連盟、喜堂

JETS COMICS 126

3月のライオン 10
March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

2014年12月5日第1刷発行

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©Chica Umino 2014
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【発行所】
株式会社白泉社
〒101-0063 東京都千代田区神田淡路町2-2-2
電話 [編集]03-3526-8055
[販売]03-3526-8010
[制作]03-3526-8020

【印刷所】
凸版印刷株式会社

【装丁】
名和田耕平デザイン事務所

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ISBN978-4-592-14520-2 Printed in Japan HAKUSENSHA

白泉社ホームページ http://www.hakusensha.co.jp

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 10

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